

Published by Authority. *1080. h. 29*  
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T H E  
**FRAUDS of LONDON** *detected;*

O R, A

WARNING-PIECE against the INIQUITOUS  
PRACTICES of that METROPOLIS.

Containing a just, true, and accurate Account of the  
many atrocious Artifices, Tricks, Seductions, Stra-  
tagems, Impositions and Deceptions, which are daily  
committed in and about *London and Westminster* (in  
order to deceive the innocent unwary *Countryman*,  
and unsuspecting *Stranger*) by

Bawds	Jew Defaulters	Receivers of Stolen
Bullies	Insolvents	Goods
Duffers	Kidnappers	Spungers
Fortune Tellers	Lottery-office-keepers	Sharps
Footpads	Mock Auctioneers	Swindlers
Gamblers	Money Droppers	Smugglers
Gossips	Pimps	Shoplifters
Hangers-on	Pretended Friends	Street-robbers
Highwaymen	Procurers	Trappers
House-breakers	Procureesses	Way-layers
Jilts	Pickpockets	Waggon hunters
Intelligencers	Quacks	Whores, &c. &c. &c.

INTERSPERSED WITH

Seasonable Reflections, whereby the foregoing Rogues  
and Cheats are not only exposed, but may be avoid-  
ed, if the Reader attends to the Instructions herein  
laid down for that Purpose.

Including Observations, salutary Hints, and Admonitions to BOTH  
SEXES, in TOWN and COUNTRY, calculated for the Benefit of  
MANKIND IN GENERAL, to destroy VICE and exalt VIRTUE.

By RICHARD KING, Esq. *K.*

Embellished with curious emblematical Copper-Plates, entirely new.

*Peruse these Sheets and you will find,  
True Pictures of the vicious Kind;  
Of Cheats who stray from Street to Street,  
And make a Prey of all they meet.*

L O N D O N.

Printed for ALEXANDER HOGG, at No. 16, Pater-Noster-Row.

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*Rich<sup>d</sup>. King*

*Thos. Hogg*



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T H E  
P R E F A C E.

**T**HE many atrocities committed in and about London, the many frauds and cheats daily practiced on the unwary tradesman and mechanic, together with the deluded countryman's sad narration of the villany and deception to be found therein, call aloud for detection and exposition.

Much has been already wrote from time to time on this subject, and, in many instances, with good effect; but as too much praise cannot be bestowed on Virtue, neither can too much be written in portraying Vice in it's own likeness, in order to give mankind a detestation thereto, and, at the same time, a judicious warning against the exhibitors of iniquity and roguery, which at this present time are carried on by the wicked and abandoned, to the injury and frequent ruin of the unhappy, as well as the unthinking part of the world, who have the misfortune to fall into their hands.

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For the above salutary purposes the following sheets were written, to put mankind upon their guard, to eschew the notorious, and to avoid the deceptions; to display the various practices made use of to cheat and deceive, and to caution the reader against credulity and probable fiction, which too often are productive of as bad consequences as the more atrocious crimes herein after specified.

The reader will observe, in general, I have addressed myself to the countryman and woman, and for the following reasons: As they are at a distance from London, and, perhaps, having received favourable and flattering ideas of it's wealth, magnitude, and grandeur, are induced thereby to make a journey, incompatible with their situation and future prospects in life, which ought to fix them in the country; and, before they have been in town twenty-four hours, are ruined and undone by the sons and daughters of dissipation, who lie in wait to destroy all those unhappy creatures who are so unfortunate as to fall into their clutches. Likewise, to put them, whose business demands their presence in London, on their guard against the cheat and defaulter; and the better so to do, I have displayed

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ed the various and many *new methods* they practice in pursuit of their nefarious and illicit proceedings, the better to enable my country readers to escape the traps already lain for them; which, being properly attended to, will enable them not only to avoid, but to detect and bring to justice the violators of the laws of their country.

To the disgrace of humanity, sense, and religion; to the disgrace of this once flourishing kingdom, and the scoff and ridicule of our neighbours the *French* and *Germans*; it is said, and sorry am I to say but too truly, that there are more depredations, cheats, thefts, and whoredoms committed in modern London in one week, than were in ancient Rome in a twelvemonth; which may be easily accounted for—London is become luxurious, and, notwithstanding the salutary laws enacted against vice and immorality, luxury begets dissipation, and consequently the evils we complain of; whereas Rome was, while virtuous, free from luxury and the mischiefs produced thereby.

Every person that wishes for the welfare of his country, cannot better gratify his inclination than by endeavouring to depress

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vice and immorality, and exalt virtue and morality in their place; which may be effected by all denominations of the community, from the prince to the beggar, by setting examples before each other of religious well governed lives, perfectly conformable to the subsisting laws of the land, the degrees of rectitude, the justice and equity we owe to humanity, benevolence, and truth, which ought always to guide our actions. Then might we boast with ancient Rome, in the meridian of her glory, of honour and virtue.

If by exposing the various frauds, in this little work, practiced and daily followed by the defaulters, I thereby shall prevent a single person from being robbed, cheated, seduced or deluded, I shall be happy in having *done the state some service*; regardless of the critic's censure, actuated by a strict adherence to truth, and for the good of my fellow creatures, have exhibited the following scenes for their perusal, not without hope of having them read with attention, and a proper regard paid to their authenticity, which will sufficiently reward me for the trouble taken in detecting THE FRAUDS OF LONDON.

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**T H E**  
**FRAUDS of LONDON detected;**  
**B E I N G A**

Warning-piece against the various Scenes  
of Iniquity which are daily exhibited in  
that Metropolis.

**B A W D S**

**G**ENERALLY are women of abandoned principles and dissipated lives, who, in their younger years, practiced as ladies of pleasure, through the various stages of that employment, till old age advancing, and custom falling off, they set up the profession of a Bawd, well qualified for the undertaking from the instructions and experience, purchased at the expence of health and happiness, through a series of years spent in riot and debauchery. Thus accomplished, they take a house for the reception of both sexes, invite young girls thereto, cloath them and set them off to advantage, and then dispose of them to some old leachers, who pay well for the innocence and inexperience of children, among whom are many not twelve years of age.

**B**

These

These old Bawds frequent our modern conventicles, and other public places, with a young Nun (as they call them) under their arm, whose business is, while the old beldam is mocking religion with uplifted eyes and hypocritical prayers, the young sinner is ogling some man fit for their purpose. Service done, they return; on being accosted by the person in view, the old woman stumbles, falls down, or faints, as best suits her purpose; the gentleman assists her, offers his arm, or a coach to convey her home; which accepted, she makes apology for the trouble she gives him, desires her daughter to thank the gentleman for his great care of her mother, which she does, and, if near, squeezes him by the hand, or otherwise shews a forwardness to be better acquainted with him. On their arrival at her hotel, the stranger is invited in, and desired to partake of a collation always in readiness for that purpose; which done, on some frivolous excuse or another, the old lady leaves the room, and the young couple to their machinations, which are variegated according to the perspicacity and adroitness of the visitant; the Nun having her different cues either to be forward, shy, or otherwise, as may best suit the interest of her employer, and allure the gallant into the snare laid for him, which seldom fails of success.

To enumerate the different arts and wiles made use of by the Bawd to decoy the innocent of both sexes, to explain the various stratagems, detect the many frauds, and set to view the scenes of wickedness pursued and exhibited under and by her direction and cognizance, would



would fill a large volume; therefore I shall content myself with laying down some rules and observations thereon, whereby the reader, if a countryman, may escape the trap prepared for him; if a citizen, and conversant therewith, yet it will be a *memento* to him of following and giving way to the licentious practices instigated by these harpies of desolation, who, like the devil, take pleasure in tormenting others, merely because they themselves, through a vicious and abandoned ill-spent life, have been tormented both in mind and body.

Beware of all such who, without any knowledge, pretend to be acquainted with you, your families and connections; an old bait to draw young women into their den to be devoured by the ravenous wolves to whom the Bawd is provider. Beware of receiving letters of assignation to meet at her house, ye unthinking young men, such letters are calculated to insnare and bring you to destruction, to injure you in health, fame, and fortune. Avoid, ye countrymen and women, the pretended friendship of strangers that welcome you to town on the arrival of the machines, &c. that convey you up; generally attendant at the inns for that purpose; if you once permit them to engage your attention, by their artful and set speeches, they will so far ingratiate themselves into your good graces by plausible fictions, as to inveigle your belief, and gain an ascendancy over your resolutions, and persuade you (if you listen to their stories) to ruin and destruction.

## B U L L I E S

**A**RE dependants on Bawds and Whores; sometimes the Bully pretends to be the husband of the whore, whose bread he eats, whose quarrel he fights; and at whose call he is always ready to act and do as commanded. These men are persons of a vicious and disorderly life, and often have lavished their whole substance on the very women that have them in keeping, for the purposes of defending them from insults, and giving a sanction to their calling. It is a very common thing for these women to bring home a gentleman, and, on entering the house, ask the maid in a whisper "if her master is at home?" The maid, according to her former instructions, replies no, he is gone out of town, and will not return till tomorrow; upon which the gentleman is invited in, and entertained with a story of the Bully's jealousy and Whore's constancy, till matters are settled in such a manner as to make his presence necessary, which takes place on the gentleman's intimation of going away. The bill being called for, if he finds fault with the charge, the maid enters and says her master is below, and immediately the Bully appears, who demands his business there; "if he wants to debauch his wife, or bilk the house?" Blusters, and talks of bringing an action for *crim. con.* but at length is pacified by the bill's being discharged, and his quondam spouse satisfied.

There are also Bullies who frequent the gaming tables, associates with cheats, that swear, lie,

lie, and forswear, as the matter in hand may require. If the cheats are detected in playing foul, they immediately refer the case to the Bully, who insists on the fairness of the play. Or should they lose any sum of money, the Bully is at hand to swear they had been cheated, and by oaths and threatnings seldom fails to extort the money back again. And yet in general these kind of gentry are the greatest cowards existing; for should they attack a man of spirit who dares defend himself and cause, if once he makes resistance they will sink away, or say they were in jest, and make the meanest submission to the offended, or tamely suffer themselves to be kicked out of doors without the least retort. On the contrary, if they meet with a man that is intimidated by their blustering, they never fail to bruise and ill treat him; an instance of which happened not many days ago: A countryman of my acquaintance being in town, was lured by a young wanton on the *look-out*, and enveigled to a well known bagnio in the environs of Covent Garden, where they regaled themselves for some time with the best the house afforded, when the lady proposed adjourning to her own house to spend the remaining part of the evening, a reception free from molestation. Accordingly the bill was called for and paid, and the couple retired to the lady's lodgings, where they spent the night in joy and festivity. But lo! when morning came, and my acquaintance was about to depart, there was a demand of five guineas made by madam for lodging, &c. besides what you please for civility, and something for the maid. Being

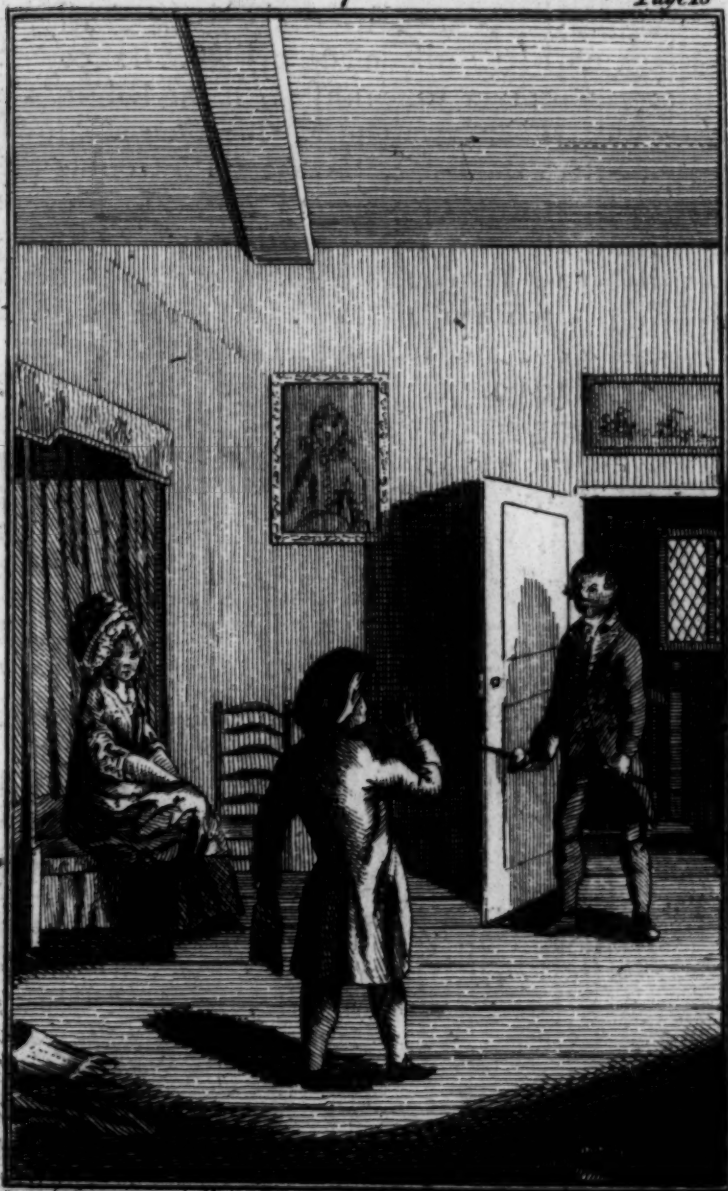
struck with the exorbitancy of the demand, he absolutely refused to comply therewith; upon which Mr. Bully made his appearance, and in a peremptory tone insisted on the lodgings being paid, the lady satisfied, and some acknowledgment to the maid, for the extra trouble she had been at in sitting up all night to prevent his running away without discharging his fees, or he swore he would run him through the body. The countryman having a greater regard for life than money, and more self-love than courage, tamely submitted to the Bully's menaces, and dropped seven guineas and a crown, for which he had a receipt on his posteriors signed by the Bully's foot, from the top of the stairs to the bottom, with the epithet of a sneaking country Put, that did not know when he was used well.

I would advise all in general, and the countryman in particular, from being even seen in their company, or going to those houses of ill fame on which they are attendant. I am sorry to say, that many a man that enters the brothels in and about town, never returns therefrom. These Bullies have as little respect for the behests of humanity as they have for the other social virtues, and living vicious and abandoned lives, make no more of destroying their fellow creatures than the sportsman would his game.

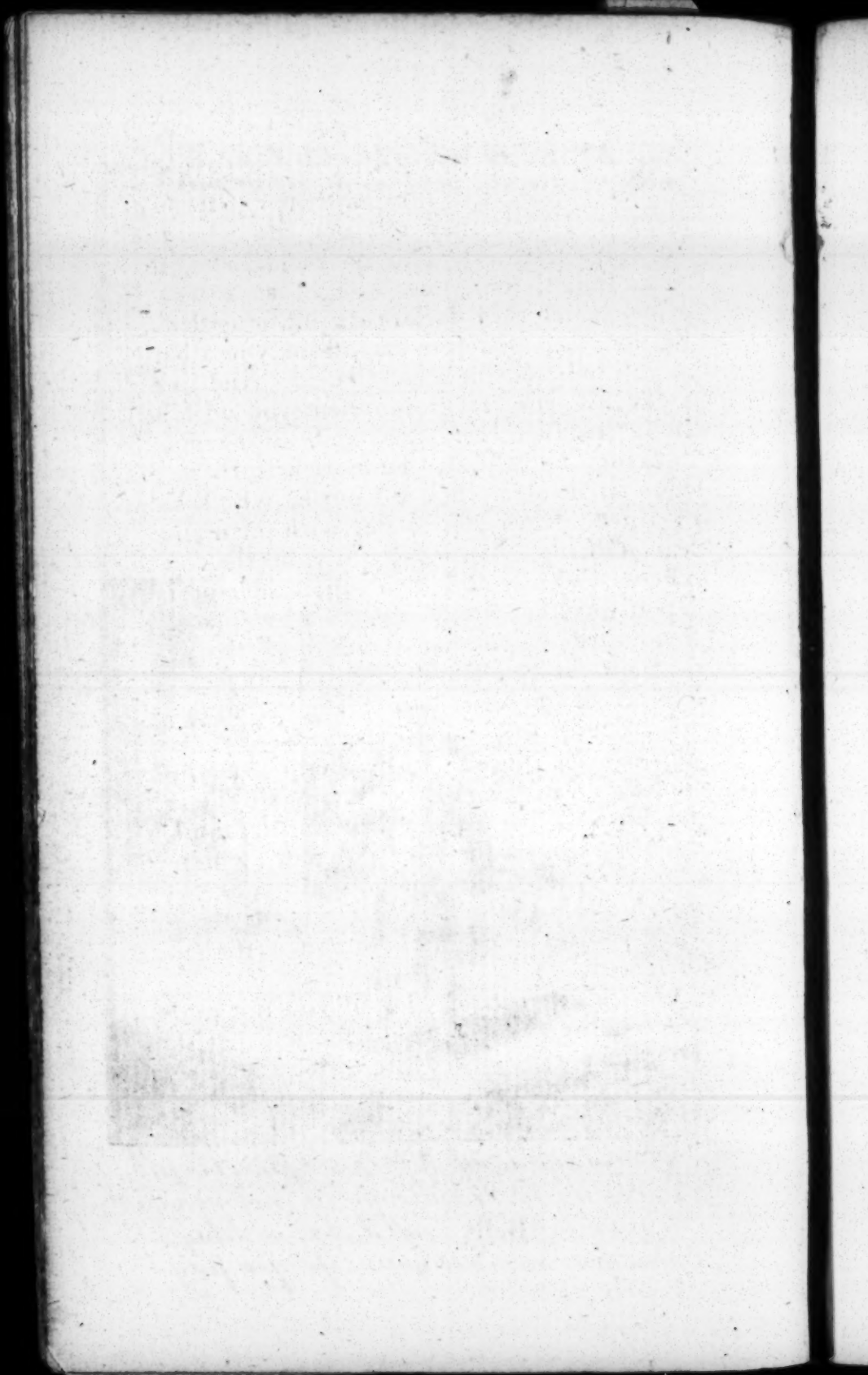
## D U F F E R S.

**T**HES E are a set of men that prey on the credulity of the unsuspecting of both sexes, by plying at the corner of streets, courts, and alleys to vend their contraband wares, generally composed





*All Night the Youth of Pleasure takes his fill,  
But in the morning comes the enormous Bill -  
He scruples, Bully's call'd, Sir, no delay,  
Either your money or your Life you pay.'*



composed of silk handkerchiefs made in Spital Fields, remnants of silk purchased at the piece-brokers, which they tell you are true India, stockings from Rag Fair or Field Lane, sometimes stolen, sometimes bought at a very low price, which they declare are just smuggled from France, and therefore can afford you a bargain if you will become a purchaser. And in order to induce you thereto, present you with a real India handkerchief, or a pair of French silk stockings to inspect, the more artfully to draw your attention to their discourse, which having obtained, desire you to step with them aside for fear of being observed by any of the revenue officers, who would seize upon their property. Upon this they carry you to a bye place, unfrequented by company, and open their goods for your choice; and should you chance to buy, it is ten to one you do not get the commodity you bartered for, unless you give a very extravagant price indeed. The method they use to elude your attention is by putting up the article in a piece of paper, and substituting another of inferior value in the room thereof, which they clap into your hand, and you into your pocket, without suspecting the cheat till you get home, when you become sensible of your error too late for remedy.

On the other hand, should you not purchase, after looking at their goods, you will get abused; and your pocket picked, at which they are very adroit; or, should you give them money to change, they will tell you they will only step to the public-house and get it changed, and be back again in an instant. You see them enter  
the

## 20 FORTUNE-TELLERS.

the house, but not returning in a reasonable time, on enquiry find there is a back door belonging thereto, through which they have escaped, to your loss and mortification.

To avoid such impositions, let me warn the countryman and unwary (in whom the Duffers are seldom deceived) not to listen or hold converse with them on any occasion whatsoever, either in the streets or public-houses, for if they do it is odds but they will soon be made sensible of their folly, in neglecting the precaution I have in this account of Duffers set before them, which, if attended to, will secure the peace and property of my fellow subjects.

## FORTUNE-TELLERS.

**A**LMOST all countries abound with these gentry, either in a great or less degree, throughout Europe. In London we have several very famous in their astrological sphere, who are as much sought after as the philosopher's stone, and whose predictions are as much believed as the Alcoran by Mahometans, and as much followed as a prime minister on a levee day.

These Conjurers (as they call themselves) pretend to a knowledge of future events by astronomical observations of the celestial signs in the zodiac; the better to carry on their delusions, tell you they have made it their study to calculate the nativity of mankind for the good of posterity; can tell you whether your life will be composed of happiness or misery, rich or poor, fruitful or sterile, and a thousand other incidents



incidents worthy your knowledge and their investigation; insinuating at the same time (if they think you have plenty of money about you) that there is much good towards you, and therefore must have a greater price for their intelligence. Who would not give a guinea, nay two, for the completion of their wishes, be it wisdom or wealth, rather than half a crown to learn that they must live in folly and poverty the rest of their lives? As this is the case, the learned Doctor seldom fails of augmenting his purse by tickling his patients ears with aggrandizements and happiness that awaits them, and which he hopes to see very shortly accomplished, for his own honour in divination as well as their benefit. These, and such like arts as these, seldom fail of producing customers; and if by chance he is right once in fifty times, he takes care to have the same published throughout the town, in order to encourage others to know their fortunes by applying to the Cunning Man.

Some of the most famous of these Fortune-Tellers have no less than forty or fifty attendants employed by them to get intelligence of their customers, in order to answer such questions as may be put by the applicant to the learned Doctor, which is generally done in the following manner: A countryman or woman just come to town, hearing of the Doctor's superior knowledge or prescience of futurity, willing to be made acquainted with their lot, apply to him for that purpose. Their arrival at his mansion is announced; the Doctor asks his intelligencers what is he? whence came he, &c.

If

22 FORTUNE-TELLERS.

If they are not able to answer these interrogatories the person is sent away with, *the Doctor is not at home, but you may be sure to find him tomorrow about this time.* On his going away one or more are dispatched after him, to gain information about his business, name, place of abode, country, and other circumstances that may serve to convince him of the Doctor's great abilities in the art of astrology, which necessary information to establish his fame is generally collected from the man himself, or his neighbour who came up to town with him.

In the interior parts of these kingdoms, as well as coasts, the Fortune-Tellers go under the denomination of Gipsies, and associate together in flocks, both sexes mixing indiscriminately; they generally apply to the younger part of the creation to tell the fortunes of newly married couples, and sweethearts who are impatient to be married, and to be made men and women, of which the Gipsies assure them will be shortly their case. The various practices they make use of to extort money from the ignorant country girls are without number, every day produces an instance of their atrocity; such as obtaining all their money, cloaths, &c. with which they make off, stripping the hedges of linen and houses of furniture, stealing infants, &c. and in every other respect prone to evil. The facts recited methinks should deter the country maiden from listening to their cant and hypocrisy, and the youths from their artful machinations to draw them aside from virtue and honour, the guardians of their innocence.

FOOT-PADS..

## F O O T - P A D S.

**F**OOT-PADS are so many and so generally descryed in the public papers, that little or no new light can I throw upon them and their manœuvres; their daring insolence and knock you down arguments are generally the first salute they greet you with, then divest you of your moveables, and if you have little worth their acceptance about you, they often maim or violently bruise you for the want of that you are not in possession of.

The atrocities of these rapacious sons of plunder call for reprobation and interference of the magistracy, to put a stop to the daring and consummate impudence they pourtray in and about this metropolis, sculking in bye lanes, desolate places, hedges, and commons, in order to way-lay the unsuspecting stranger and countryman, and rob them of the ready; nay, if they dare dispute their claim, murder them without remorse, to such an heighth are these defaulters grown. I therefore would advise travellers of every denomination to be careful of specifying the property they have about them, either at the inns upon the road, or the public houses in town, as the Foot-pads ply at these places in order to gain information of the road they travel, the sum they carry, the commodity they have to dispose of, and their return home, in hopes thereby to be enabled to rob them without detection. Before I close this paragraph let me observe, that if a continuation of the power vested in constables should in  
peace

peace be established as well as war, of impressing all disorderly personages, not capable of giving a satisfactory account of themselves, the Foot-pads, who come under the above denomination, would be taken up, and rendered serviceable to the country by being employed either on board a ship, in our dock yards, or elsewhere, as the legislative body should think proper, and by that means rid the town and country of these pests to society, who for many years have committed depredations shocking to humanity.

I was led into the foregoing observations from the recent utility produced by the present impress, thieves, cheats and vagrants being greatly reduced, murders, street-robberies, and burglaries not being one-tenth in number they were before the civil power had authority to take them up; and which I am persuaded will be still attended with great good to the community in general, if the above, or some such other mode, is pursued for the preservation of our lives and property.

## G A M B L E R S.

**T**HERE are as many different professors of gambling as there are of trades, and move in as many different spheres, from the most noble duke to the most abandoned chimney-sweeper; pretenders to honour and honesty, versed in the various tricks of their trade, by which many of the honourable and right honourables have squandered away their fortunes and estates in accomplishing themselves for the  
epithet



epithet of *a complete Gamester*, in the true sense of the word, *a downright Gambler*.

If instances were necessary to prove the assertion, I could produce hundreds within the comprehension of my own knowledge, many within a twelvemonth, that have been ruined by the pernicious itch for gaming. Young noblemen and gentry, just come to unincumbered estates, and affluent fortunes, who, in the hour of dissipation, have been way-laid by the Gamblers, and, through their arts, frauds, and deceptions, stripped of the last shilling. The truth of this is too glaring to need comment. Tradesmen and others, though not in the self-same way, yet in ways similar to the before-mentioned, have been tricked by the Gamblers of their all, the consequences thereof have been emigration, bankruptcy, or imprisonment. The lower class of mankind have had their share of the supposed run of ill-luck, or frowns of fortune, as they call it, not having sense enough to know when they are imposed on, become sufferers in the last degree; many of whom, in order to retrieve their losses, have had recourse to picking of pockets, shop-lifting, and other petty offences, till, emboldened through success, and for some time escaping detection, they set out on greater exploits, such as breaking into houses by night, robbing on the highway, &c. till at length they finish their career at Tyburn, by informing us that the love of gambling was the first step that led them on to the commission of greater sins, for which they now justly suffer.

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Having said so much on this head, without quoting an instance thereof, shall content myself for the present with appealing to the feelings of the deluded, rather than to hurt the patient, by probing the wound not yet half cured, by a recitation of the cause and fatal effects that has brought him into the declension he now labours under; and by detecting and setting up to view some of the many cheats practiced by Gamblers, enable others to eschew the snare laid for them, by avoiding their company and inticements, which they throw out by different allurements, in order to make sure of their game; which, once within their power, they part not with till stripped of every thing of value in possession: this done, they send the poor Pidgeon (as they call it) home unfledged, to their great exultation, and as great mortification of the sufferer.

It will not be amiss, in this place, to state several of the games in which the Gambler is the most proficient, and by what means he imposes on and defrauds you, the better to put you on your guard against his impositions. I will mention several of the most fashionable and alluring pleasures at which the various methods of deluding and cheating are practiced with success, *viz.* The Gaming-houses, Horse-races, Cock-fighting, Bowling, Billiards, and Tennis, of a public nature; together with Routs, Assemblies, Masquerades, and Concerts of a particular, or private nature; in the latter of which you will find notorious Gamblers of the female sex, who deal in art and deception,

tion, as well as the more notorious gentlemen of the other, and who frequently barter one commodity for another, provided discount is allowed for prompt payment, which often is the case, without a reference to credit, or making it a debt of honour, of which I shall speak more largely in the course of my present speculations, having first investigated the prior matters before me, which call for reprehension.

In this great and over-grown city are several houses not only converted, but others built, for the assembly of Gamblers, into which, however, none under a certain degree are admitted, unless a friend, or intimate of a subscriber, is introduced as a novice in the art, in order to be initiated into the mathematical rules, directed by proportion, said to square their actions; preparatory to his becoming a member, which may be effected at the expence of five or ten thousand pounds, and a qualification given of his adaptness in the science, which will enable him to exhibit with *eclat* at Newmarket or York Races.

These pretenders to honour and honesty, at play, however, have been detected many times in the vilest frauds, particularly at the game of Hazard, which is much in vogue among them (the Gamblers) carrying false dice; which at play they substitute in the room of fair ones, with so much dexterity and slight that the cheat is not so much as thought of, nor the dice suspected; for, should you examine them, it would be almost impossible to find out the deception, unless you were versed in their arts, and used to their tricks.

Thus set up, with false dice, false cards, and a wicked designing heart, they prey upon the ignorant and unthinking, and, as they herd together upon occasions, they give each other assistance; while one Gamester is cheating the man of fortune within doors, others are laying traps for him without, by getting a knowledge of his estate or fortune from his servants or acquaintance; procuring stamps to assign over his estate in readiness, giving old Fifty per Cent. advice that money is wanted at B——'s, and if he does not be quick with it, his brother Jew in iniquity will be beforehand with him. The sum must be a round one, for the prodigal has many thousand acres to be disposed of, and that immediately; away hobbles the old usurer, who generally receives so much per Cent. per hour for the money he lends, till, between the group, the gentleman is fleeced of part, if not his whole estate. The shame of being thought a bubble, and exposed to the town, frequently prevents gentlemen from making use of the statute provided in such cases; rather than their reputation should suffer, they tamely submit themselves to be plundered as aforesaid.

At Horse-races the countryman may be assured of meeting with Gamblers, who make a practice of going from race to race all over the kingdom; and, notwithstanding the country farmer, and breeder of horses, may, in reality, be a better judge of these cattle than the Gamester, yet I would caution him against wagering with these gentry, as they, being parties concerned in many matches, having information  
from



from different hands which horse is, and which is not to win, generally take you *in*, as they call it, and laugh at your judgment. They often make bets amongst themselves, merely to deceive you, and give a preference to the horse they know must lose, in order to draw you in to lay money upon it. If it should chance to fall out (which is seldom the case) that an honest match is to be run, and of which they are unacquainted, then they make use of the following or like stratagem to insure their pockets, that is, they lay you a bet, and put the money into the next gentleman's hands to hold, which they pretend they do not know (though at the same time their intimate colleague); if you win, the gentleman's not to be found; on the contrary, he meets you, with much concern in his countenance, and says, he, by following your example, and laying on the wrong horse, has lost twice your sum, then squeezes you by the hand, and wishes you better luck another time, and so farewell for the present.

Cock-fighting, of all games, is surely one of the most barbarous, and a scandal to the practitioners who follow it, both high and low; for, notwithstanding it's antiquity as a diversion in England, it is now become a disgrace to humanity; and surely none but the most notorious gamblers can be elated therewith, or give a sanction to barbarity that even shudders the Indian to hear of. At these scenes of cruelty the greatest depredations are committed by the attendants thereon, the most prophane and wicked expressions made use of, the most horrid and blasphemous oaths and curses denounced

against Fortune for the loss of an odd battle, with a jargon of disconsonant tongues as hard to be understood, and in as great confusion, as that at Babel, composes the group; among whom are to be found my Lord in dispute with a Butcher, and his Grace with the Farrier, all hail fellows well met. From these, and other meetings of the like nature, let me dissuade my readers, where nothing is to be obtained but at the expence of humanity, and to the discredit of Christianity.

With respect to other diversions, such as Bowling, Billiards, Tennis, &c. they have each their different pleasures, and, in themselves, are inoffensive, genteel, and manly, but like others are frequented by Gamblers, and therefore to be avoided. The frauds practiced at the above games are various, and depend much upon the skill of the Gambler, who becomes proficient by daily practice; and, in order to make his market, can play at them either well or ill, and gets or loses as is most conducive to his interest; for, as he lives by cheating, to lose sometimes may be necessary to his winning at others, or in agreeing to take your part against his brother Gamblers, which, being acceded to, he loses to win a part of your money, which is divided amongst them when you are gone. Should you play at these diversions let it be only for trifles, but, above all, beware of betting or engaging in company you or your friends have no knowledge of, for if you do, ten to one but you are *had*, a cant word they make use of, instead of saying, as the truth is, *we have cheated him*.

At

At Routs, Assemblies, Masquerades, and Concerts, are introduced gaming-tables of different kinds, at which the Gamblers of the female sex, in some sort, may be said to preside. “ Lady S—— sends her compliments to Colonel B——, to acquaint him that on Sunday evening next, she shall be glad of his accompanying her to the Duchess of C——’s Rout, where she hopes to be enabled to pay him her losings at Lady G——’s last Sunday night. Lady S—— is desirous of the Colonel’s being her partner for that night, as they know each other’s play, and thereby may think of some way of making retaliation for the losses they have each sustained on being separated.” The Colonel was punctual to a minute at Lady S——’s dressing-room, having previously enquired if my Lord was in town, just as she was giving orders to admit him. After some time spent in adjusting the manœuvres to be exhibited at the Rout, and the tricks they were to play being properly arranged, they set off for the irreverend scene of dissipation held at her Grace’s; where, not being prosperous, the lady, in order to dispel the Colonel’s gloom, that sensibly overspread his face on losing his last guinea, surrendered up the fortress he had for twelve months besieged in vain, as a recompense for all the hardships he had undergone, and the losses he had sustained, during his intrenchment before the citadel. Upon which they withdrew from the Rout, in order to give and take possession of the town in form, and to congratulate each other on the occasion. While my good Lord

S——

S—— was planning schemes, at his country house, for the good of the nation; the all-worthy Colonel was using his best endeavours for propagating his lordship's family, and recording his name to posterity.

In short, there are so many Gamblers to be met with in every circle about this polite town, that to give an account of them, would not only take up more time than I at present have leisure to apply to, but frustrate the intent of the present undertaking, which is rather to point out the method of eschewing the cheats and their machinations, than portraying the various modes of accomplishing their unlawful practices; and, as I have given some account of the most glaring, hope the countryman will be thereby warned against the delusive frauds and insinuations of the Gambler of every denomination.

## G O S S I P S.

**A**RE women of invention, detraction, and defamation, whose tête-à-tête's are composed of scandal and abuse; the Gossips no sooner meet together than they begin to pull the reputations of their deserving neighbours to pieces; and each other's, when absent, shares the same fate.

There are Gossips of all denominations, from a Duchess to a Dairy-maid, whose chief study is mischief, sowing feuds and animosities among their acquaintance, and, if attended to, are capable of setting the world at odds. As their love of gossiping encreases so does their power  
of



of doing evil; not contented with relating the real truth of transactions under their inspection, they can fabricate stories of envy at pleasure, and, by continual practice of this pernicious chit-chat, become constitutional lyars, not to be listened to or noticed by the prudent and wise.

But as the greatest evils are to be dreaded from Gossips of the middling and lower class in life, (they that move in a higher sphere generally preying on each other) I shall direct my present observations on this subject to them, with a recent and striking example of the fatal effects produced by gossiping.

The wives of tradesmen in town, and farmers in the country, should be cautious of mixing at market, or elsewhere, with these female tatters, whose pleasure lies in scandal, and love in tormenting others, by delusive tales of their husband's inconstancy: having heard from Mrs. Such-a-one, who had it from Dame Margery, who was told by Goody Benson, that she had heard Betty Simpson say, that Judith Jarvis was informed by Madam Griskin, that Susan, her maid, had seen Mr. Supple and Mrs. Maudlin in a very indecent posture, in the garden together, the last time Mrs. Supple and Mr. Maudlin were in town. This round-about recitation, of what never existed, is industriously spread till it comes home to the parties themselves, who, enraged at the aspersions on their characters, fly to our modern Inquisition at Doctor's Commons for redress, which never fails of intailing infamy and disgrace on the detractor. Therefore let me also warn all servant

vant maids, and others, to be careful how they speak, even the truth, to the injury of another, though it comes under their own cognizance, relative to the actions of the parties being criminal; as it is in the power of vicious and designing persons, however guilty, to punish the relater of their misdeeds, by swearing such and such words were spoke in traduction of their characters, which words, being actionable, the Spiritual Court lays hold of them, and, if not unsaid, and submission made, stops not on this side excommunication, but a heavy denunciation follows, which stays not until the culprits are thrown into a loathsome prison, to end their days in sorrow and bitterness.

Among the number of instances that are within the scope of my own knowledge, I never heard of, or met with, a more malicious and scandalous prosecution than at this time is carrying on against a poor innocent widow, for the misapplication of a virtuous intention, by informing a person, in affluent circumstances, with whom she lived a servant, that the governess of the young lady her daughter was not, from what she had heard, a fit person to be intrusted with her education; mentioning the circumstances that induced her to such an information, and the persons who informed her thereof. This was done with a good intent, to save a young lady from the imminent danger that threatened, the contamination of her morals. The repetition of licentious and wicked actions before youth, are productive of ill habits, which, once attained, are very hard to be irradiated. Parents cannot be too wary with  
respect

respect to the persons they fix about their daughters in their tender years, as their good or ill temper, virtues or vices, in a great measure, depend upon the instructor's demeanor and well governed life, in setting up an example of virtue and piety to the rising generation.

The well meaning servant, before she unburthened her mind to her mistress, weighed the consequences, and consulted her mother and aunt with respect thereof; whether her mistress would take it in the true meaning, or as a piece of calumny and detraction, which for some time kept her silent; but at length, through the advice of her parent, and in consideration of being herself a mother, reflecting that if she was in the same circumstances with her mistress, how happy she should be to gain advice tending to the good of her offspring, at last determined her in the attempt to rescue from danger an only child upon the very brink of ruin; if bad precedents, daily exhibited in her sight, may be called so.

The mistress, on hearing the story, being greatly prejudiced in favour of the governess, instead of weighing the matter judiciously, and making that enquiry necessary upon the occasion, and which every virtuous and prudent mistress of a family would have done; gave herself up to passion and revenge, discharged the author, on confirming the intimation, (which was her coachman), together with the complainant; but, not content therewith, insisted on the governess, and the suspected intimates, prosecuting and ruining the poor widow and fatherless, for the intended good she offered,  
dictated

dictated by an heart fraught with honor and honesty. The reader may imagine the defaulters (for such they really are, notwithstanding the disbelief of the mistress) were easily brought into her schemes, and a prosecution set on foot, at her instigation, in the Spiritual Court.

A citation being served, the servant, through fear and consternation, absconded without appearing thereto, upon which excommunication followed. The mother of the persecuted, without money or friends, was not able to pay the charges accrued thereby. In this state of affairs the melancholy tale reached me, too late to prevent, by advice or otherways, the mischiefs already begun. The daughter oppressed with grief abroad, the mother worn out with sorrow and affliction at home, a poor child desolate of friends and parents, share in the present calamity. Is there a person living, that reads their distress, that doth not pity them? Yes, truly is there! an hard hearted revengeful mistress, that glories in the havoc she has made, that triumphs in the ruin of an honest woman. And yet this pious creature is on her knees both night and morning, and sanctifies herself by a participation of the Blessed Sacrament, repeats the Lord's Prayer, and, would you think it possible, still perseveres in oppression and persecution; nor will she bate an inch of the rigour of the law; not content with rendering the unhappy miserable, by driving her the country, she is still proceeding further, and, as far as her rancored heart and power will avail, to condemn her soul and body, by rendering



rendering her incapable of performing the social duties and virtues of this life.

In the above detail is no exaggeration, but faithfully and accurately described so far, but where it will end God only knows; therefore, once more, O reader, let me warn thee from gossiping, back-biting, tale-bearing, and such like silly, weak, and pernicious tatlings, which may subject thee to the like disgrace and misery, with the much injured and abused servant, whose unhappy case I have herein set forth.

Reflect upon the foregoing, you happier servants, in the country, and commiserate the distressful situation of the poor widow, parent, and fatherless. May you live long and happy, without meeting with misfortunes; may the country housewives, employed in the duties of their vocations\*, be ever blest with peace and plenty, free from scandal and bickerings, which, too frequently, disturb repose, and imbitter life.

## H A N G E R S - O N .

**T**H E S E are a set of men of an indolent lazy life, who, rather than labour to obtain a livelihood, will submit to any meanness, to eat the bread of idleness. There are many

\* To the perusal of our female country readers, permit me to recommend an excellent family book, called, *The Farmer's Wife, or, The Compleat Country Housewife*, as well worthy their attention; being fraught with full instructions, and ample directions, for the care, management, and good ordering of every necessary and requisite to complete their knowledge in domestic affairs. The price is only eighteen pence.

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different kinds, some pretend to a knowledge of the sciences, others the arts, some profess themselves to be authors, others wits, and the like. No sooner does the Hanger-on receive an invitation from a gentleman to dine in town, or spend a week at his country seat, than he is constant in his daily visits in town, or stay, during the season, in the country. He makes himself one at all parties, and upon all occasions; is ready to affirm whatever is said by the donor, and always coincides with him in opinion, however heretical and treasonable; prefers such dishes and wine to others, and has just his taste and sentiments. In this state they generally live till the gentleman grows tired of their insipidness and impudence, and tells them, in downright terms, he wishes them to quit his house and table. Upon which I have known some of these Hangers-on challenge the men that have fed them, for two or three years, for barely intimating that their company was no longer agreeable.

Such men I would advise my country readers to avoid, that pretend friendship for you, on your arrival in town, offering to shew you about, and give you instructions how to demean yourselves while in London; such are Hangers-on, that will eat and drink with you while you stay, but will never offer to pay a farthing; however, in lieu thereof, will tell a smutty story, or sing you the last bawdy new song they made upon a particular occasion. These you will easily find out, and may as easily get shut of, by not treating or encouraging them on your arrival.

HIGHWAYMEN.

## H I G H W A Y M E N,

**I**N general, are desperate and resolute defaulters, who, having spent their patrimony, or lavished their substance, among whores and gamesters, take to the road, in order to retrieve their broken fortunes one way or another, either to recruit, by meeting with a good booty, or finishing their lives at Tyburn, on detection.

They have various schemes for carrying on their business, such as seeing ostlers, bribing landlords, on the road, for intelligence *of who is worth picking up*, and where the countryman and others are to be met with, &c.

The Highwayman dismounts at the inn, enquires, of the bar-maid or landlady, what company is in the house? on being informed, either introduces himself, or gets the landlord to do it for him, with an apology, of being alone, and should be glad to sup with them, if agreeable, which is seldom refused by travellers, not suspecting the purpose of the intended visitant. In the course of the evening, the Highwayman, by asking questions, making observations, and using other manœuvres, in which he is accomplished, seldom fails of obtaining what he sought for, a knowledge of the purse, which, being pulled out to pay the reckoning, and orders given for his setting off in the morning, in some sort gives the Highwayman an idea of its contents, and whether it will answer his

## 40 HOUSE-BREAKERS.

purpose, in obtaining the same at the hazard of an halter\*.

The best means I can point out to evade the Highwayman is, not to travel by night, or be prodigal in displaying money, Bank notes, or other valuables, at the inns you put up at, before the landlord or servants; and also to be cautious into what company you fall, for fear they get out of you whither you are going, and for what purpose; if to pay or receive money, they will certainly way-lay, and rob, if not murder you, which may be avoided by a little precaution and prudence, which the foregoing hint will furnish you with, at a very small expence.

## HOUSE-BREAKERS.

OF all robbers that can be found, none comes up in atrocity to the House-breakers. Theirs is a species of robbing so dreadful in itself, that every caution, and precaution, both in town and country, should be taken to guard against it. They are the most daring and desperate of all villains that practice it, and

\* Other methods they pursue, with different addresses, as *The Malefactor's Register, or New Newgate and Tyburn Calendar*, fully evinces, in the lives, trials, and dying speeches of the most notorious violators of the laws of their country, who have suffered death for the same, since 1700 to the present time, sufficiently testifies; a work calculated to display the consequence of vice, and the happiness resulting from honour and integrity, with convincing proofs of the excellence of our laws for the protection of our lives and properties. It is publishing in weekly numbers, at six-pence each, ornamented with a beautiful set of copper-plates.

generally,



## HOUSE-BREAKERS. 41

generally, to accomplish their nefarious and wicked schemes, stop not on this side murder; hundreds of families have been ruined by them, hundreds of persons lost their lives by them, as appears by the Tyburn Calendar. As they know the danger to be great, and the punishment, on detection, capital, they generally fix on houses supposed to have the greatest property, or on those the least guarded. These robberies are committed by the following means, either by forcing the door or window-shutter open, with an iron crow, or other instrument, which might be prevented, by properly securing the windows with a double bar crossed, and the door with two bolts and a chain, the forcing of which would alarm the neighbourhood. A false key is frequently substituted in the room of the true one, and the house robbed without detection; this is generally done in the summer time, when the families are out of town, and no servant left in the house. Another way of breaking houses is by getting into an empty one, and from thence over the top of the next, and so forth, till they find entrance at the garret windows, where they lie concealed till evening, when they let in their accomplices, and, for better security, while a part is rifling the house, the others are employed, with fire arms, to blow the brains of him, or her, out, that dares to stir or speak during the performance. But the most daring of all is, impudently knocking at the door, which opened, they rush in, knock down and bind all they meet with, sometimes gag and maim them, rifle the house of all that

is valuable, and walk off, with as little remorse, as if nothing had happened. Two shocking instances lately took place, of the wantonness and barbarity of these desperate villains, at a watch-maker's, in or near Moorfields, and at a farmers, on Finchley-common, some of which have been brought to justice for the same, and it is to be hoped that the remainder will not long escape the punishment their cruelty and villainy richly deserves.

The best preventatives, I can think of, to stop the growing evils, and to sleep secure and in safety, are to keep your doors and windows properly secured, which will prevent the three former complaints, and, as to the last, when ever any one knocks by night, to have a chain that will admit of the door's opening, wide enough to make an enquiry, *Who is there?* properly fastened on the inside, to prevent their getting in, before you can alarm the family and neighbourhood. In the country a good dog is of great use, and deters more House-breakers from attempting their nefarious practices than sword or gun, nor can I see any reason why they should not be kept in town, for the protection of our houses, as well as in the country.

## J I L T S

**A**RE ladies of easy virtue, who, through an hypocritical sanctity of manners, and pretending to virtue and religion, draw the countryman, and inexperienced cit, into their clutches. If they do grant a favour, it is  
with

with a seeming reluctance, which is followed with tears, and repentant sighs, for their folly and credulity, feign an excess of passion for you, cannot bear the thoughts of parting, swear eternal constancy, and thereby wheedle you out of a settlement, or sum sufficient to live for you alone. But, alas! no sooner are you gone, than they jilt you, fly to some favourite paramour they have in keeping, and frequently bestow on him what you bestowed on them. In this manner they live, by pretending a like unwillingness for prostitution, and a like regard for every fresh cully. As they have more art than the street-walker, and more cant and cunning than the chamber whore, they generally get better paid, and appear more decent and circumspect at the Theatres and public places they frequent. Notwithstanding their duplicity to their keepers, and the favourite for their leisure moments, they pretend to be jealous, can faint, and have fits upon occasion, nay miscarry, rather than lose a trifling present of a few hundreds, promised on their being ensient; and should that really be the case, they give themselves more airs, expect more attendance, and more and better accommodations, than sufficient to satisfy three or four prudent and virtuous wives upon the same occasion, nor will they scruple to tell you they expect more observance than if they were your wife; intimating how my Lord such a one provided for his mistress and children, and that they have as great right to expect it as she; in short, there is no end to their wants and impertinences, their tricks and impositions, until they have  
either

either ruined you, or you detected them, which they frequently give you an opportunity of doing; having gotten all they can from you, they grow tired of your company and converse, and wish you heartily at the devil.

Surely all the vices and follies of the sex center in the Jilt; devoid of generosity, and the behests of humanity, she preys on all she meets, and jilts all she preys on. Her tongue, fraught with the flaver of deception, wheedles you out of your senses and property, till having no more to lavish on her, she treats you with insolence and disdain, and, like poor *Barnwell*, if you have acted imprudently, will be a *Millwood* to compleat the catastrophe, and hang you. Of all whores the Jilt is most to be avoided, knowing more than the rest, she is more capable of doing mischief, and therefore I caution you against her.

## INTELLIGENCERS.

**P**ERSONS who keep statute halls, and offices of intelligence, where masters and mistresses may hear of servants, and servants of places. There is not, in this metropolis, a more flagrant and bare-faced cheat practiced than by these fellows, who, in general, are illiterate boobies, not worth a groat, having lived a loose disorderly life, set up this trade, in order to impose upon the ignorant country man and maid, by helping them to places of every denomination, of which their existence is only in idea. Many of these Intelligencers are downright bullies to bawds, and old procurers



curers for debilitated nobility, who are on the look-out for a fresh piece of country mortality, and placed there for the noble purpose of decoying them to the brothels of seduction. And I am bold to say, that scores of country girls have been robbed of their innocence and virtue, by means of the Intelligencer's recommendation to the sisterhood of these unexperienced creatures.

I would therefore advise my country readers not to pay any attention to these Intelligencers for getting them places, who frequently keep people for a month, and put them to daily expences, without the least probability of doing them service, or, should they recommend them, it is to the pimp, bawd, or procuress, for the purposes above hinted at, and which generally terminates in the ruin of the applicant, to the great mortification of her parents, and disgrace of an honest industrious family.

## INSOLVENTS.

SINCE the act for the relief of insolvent debtors has taken place, calculated for the benefit and advantage of those, whose merciless and hard hearted creditors kept confined in jail, many wicked and designing persons have availed themselves of it, in order to cheat and defraud the fair trader, and their creditors in general, by various arts and stratagems, such as getting themselves arrested on a friendly action, while the act is in contemplation, confiscating and making away with their property, making nominal deeds of gifts, antedating bonds and sureties,

sureties, in order to swallow the oaths required on their examination, preparatory to their enlargement, and many other atrocious practices, calls for reprehension.

I remember, on the first act's passing for the above purpose, there was no limitation for those who had been in jail a twelvemonth, or those only of a day, all were released, and hundreds threw themselves into prison on the occasion; who, by the assistance of a compelling creditor, dropped all their debts, and returned from prison thoroughly white-washed, which was effected in the following manner:—The prisoner gave a note of hand, dated two or three years back, for such a sum, payable in so many months, long past, to the compelling creditor, which was sworn to by him to be a just one, and by that means the Insolvent obtained his liberty. Shoe-blacks, chimney-sweepers, and dustmen, for the sake of a few shillings, undertook this dirty work; and, by their means, many hundred families were reduced in circumstances, and brought to ruin and distress, by the cheats practised on them by the partakers of that act; since which time a limitation has been made for the prisoners being in actual confinement, before a day, mentioned in the act's, taking place, by means of which the above complained of fraud, in some sort, has been frustrated, but never so effectually as in the act of last year. Many, on the announcement of the act's taking place, threw themselves into prison, in hopes to be made partakers thereof, living luxuriously while their money lasted, the better to defraud their creditors,

ditors, when, to their mortification and astonishment, an amendment was made therein, by the wisdom and discernment of the Lords, who saw the game a playing, that no one should be cleared that had not absolutely been in custody, or held to bail, before a prior day to that at first intended.

Many came out of prison disappointed, others had detainers lodged against them, and some, having spent their all, were kept for their fees; thus the cheats of a modern day have happily once been frustrated in their attempts at fraud and deception; may they ever be so who strive to injure and deceive the honest and industrious.

There are now living Insolvents, that have made a trade of getting into prison, and cheating their creditors, every time an act has past for the relief of debtors. Such men should be pointed out, and held up to view, as common robbers of mankind, that the merchants and dealers might be aware of them, and prevent their further proceedings in this business, by withholding credit from all such known defaulters as they are.

## KIDNAPPERS.

A Set of men of abandoned principles, who, having run out their fortunes, enter into the pay of the East-India Company in order to recruit the army; and, in the time of war, when a guinea or two is advertized to be given to any person that brings a proper young man, of five feet eight or nine inches high, these kidnappers

nappers lay in wait, at different rendezvous, in order to entrap them and get the money.

Various are the pretences of these gentry, some assuming the characters of officers, others serjeants, drummers, and recruits, though not the shadow of a commission is amongst them. They have many ways of enveigling the heedless and unthinking countryman, on his arrival, to their houses, about Charing-cross and other parts of the town. One or two of these Kidnappers dress as countrymen, go five or six miles out of town in order to meet the waggon and stages; and enquire if John such a one is come up, which answer is in the negative, no such person being known; they then enter into discourse with the countrymen, ask them if they will walk to London, being but a short way off, otherwise they will go their way, and, being complaisant, engage the countrymen's attention, who join in conversation, and, by that time they get to London, learn their occupations and business to town, whether they are in search of places, trades, or intend to return home again, which intelligence they generally profit by. Coming to the place of rendezvous, the Kidnappers propose a pint of porter, which being agreed on, they enter the house where their companions are in waiting, enjoying themselves over flowing bowls, and exhilarating their spirits with loyal toasts and songs, giving the punch round without exception, inviting the countrymen, and pretended friends, to partake of the repast, which accepted, the Kidnappers begin their business, by enquiring who is willing to serve his Majesty,



jesty, and the like, the countryman, if inclined thereto, is generally deceived; if his desire is for the guards, or any other particular regiment, there are mock serjeants and privates at hand, to swear that they belong thereto, and so of other regiments; when the fact really is they are trepanned for the East-Indias, hurried on board a ship, or kept in some dismal place of security, till a sufficient number are collected, and an opportunity serves to send them away.

On the other hand, should the countrymen be averse to enlisting, and talk of going away, there are enough to swear they have received a shilling, or more, in part of bounty money, and others to prove it, by insisting they saw them put the money in such or such a pocket. The countryman denies his receiving it; but, on search, the money is found, and he obliged to submit, or pay the smart; by this means many are daily hurried away from their friends and families, without their inclination, to the ruin of numbers, by these ravenous kites, that prey upon the ignorance and easy disposition of the unlettered countryman.

To avoid them behoves every one that has a regard for himself and liberty; which may be easily done, by not entering into converse with them, or joining with strangers in public-houses, particularly houses of rendezvous, which may be known by two or three of the red coat Kidnappers lurking about the doors.

E

LOTTERY

## LOTTERY OFFICE KEEPERS.

FOR several years past these Lottery Office Keepers have had an ample share in imposing on the town, and cheating the country, by vending of books, handkerchiefs, and other things of little value, with shares of tickets, said to be impending, or then drawing, in the State Lottery, with a note of hand, importing, that if No. 45 should come a prize of 20,000*l*. the bearer of that ticket would be intitled to 50*l*. and so for other prizes in proportion; by this means thousands were taken in with their eyes open, (such an itch has the world for gambling) and paid thrice the value for the commodity they purchased (allured by the hopes of a prize in the lottery) than it's real worth.

On the drawing of the lottery the lower part of the creation, who were concerned in the above schemes for enriching themselves, would quit their labour and industry, and repair to Guildhall, to be present at the drawing, in expectation of every next number called being theirs, when twenty thousand to one of their getting a prize of 10*l*. Some few have been so lucky as to get the 20,000*l*. and 10,000*l*. but I never knew that they received the sum stipulated for payment, in the promissory note given for that purpose. On the contrary, I have seen the Office Keeper's windows and shops demolished, by a deluded and justly enraged mob, who have been ruined by the purchase

## LOTTERY OFFICE KEEPERS. 51

chase of tickets, shares, chances, and insurances thereon.

The Keepers had a custom, a day or two before the finishing the drawing, to shut up their shops and decamp, for fear of being brought to account for their cheats and roguery, practised on the ignorant and unthinking. The countryman, hearing that he had a prize in the lottery, hastened up to town, at no small expence, to receive the money due thereon; when, to his great sorrow, there was no Keeper to be found, but, as an alleviation of his grief, he saw hundreds deceived as well as himself.

To such an heighth were these Lottery Offices carried (as they called themselves) that you might purchase shares and chances at six pence a piece, one of which is worth observing: An advertisement appeared in the Morning Chronicle, intimating that shares and chances were to be disposed of at Fuller's Eating-house, in Wych-street, and tickets insured; that whosoever bought six pennyworth of beef, would be presented with a ticket, and a note of hand to receive the sums inserted therein, if the number of the ticket was drawn a prize of 20,000*l.* &c. and told you, that this was the most rationable of all schemes hitherto projected, as the purchaser, at least, would have, for his six pence, three pennyworth of meat, besides a chance in the Lottery.

Notwithstanding the law has taken every precaution to guard against the itinerant cheat, who practices as Lottery Office Keeper, yet ways are, and always will be, found to evade

## 52 MOCK AUCTIONEERS.

it. Therefore let me dissuade the countryman, and others, from adventuring at this losing game, as it is at best, there being better than two to one against you in the State Lottery, and more than fifty to one of your getting any thing from such as I have already described.

## MOCK AUCTIONEERS.

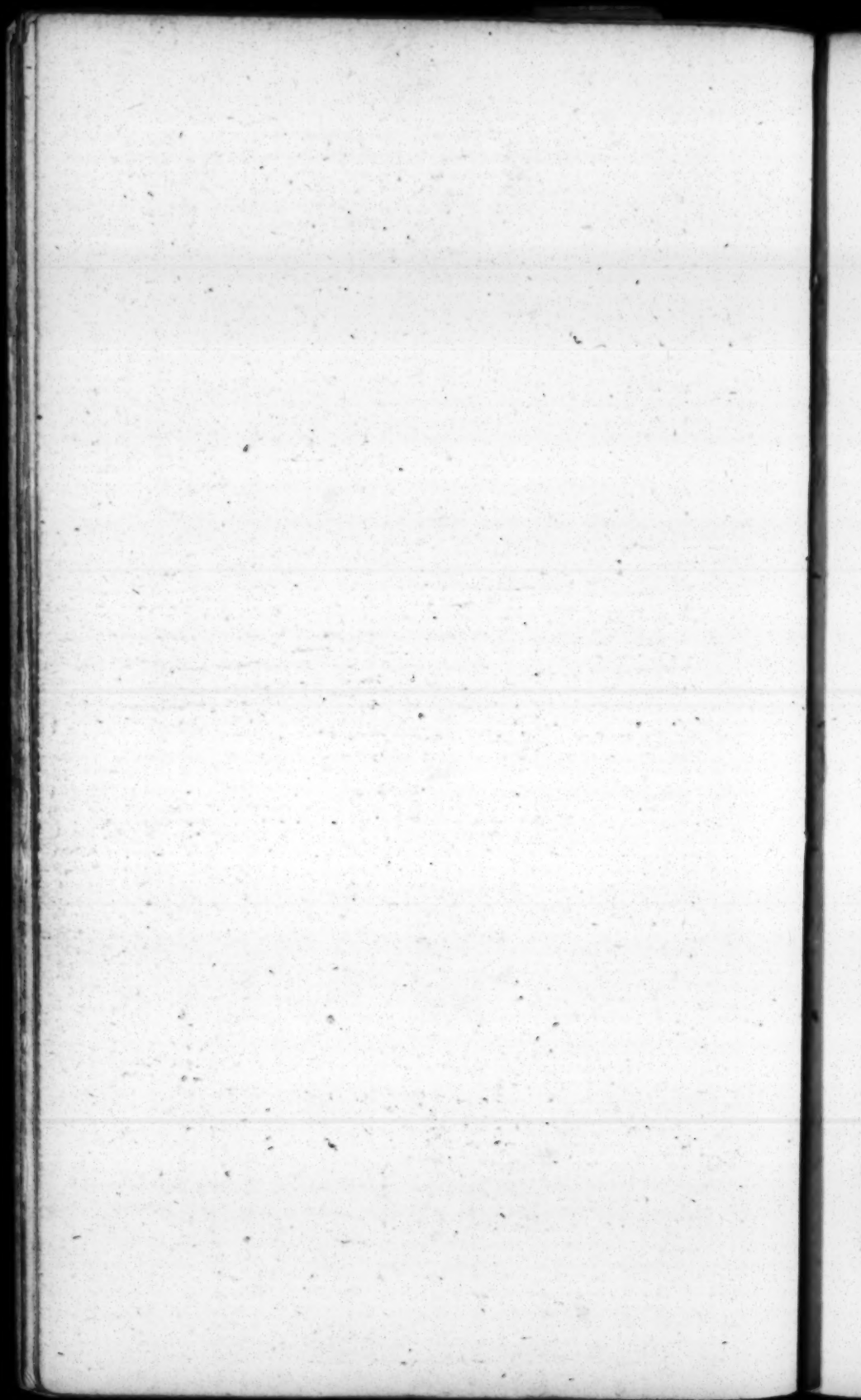
THESE people are as great cheats as the former, though they practice, in the way of delusion, without honour or honesty, yet they set up a pretence to both; they open shops, obtain goods from brokers, pawns, and other things of little value, which they get puffers to set off, and bid for as valuable. You may know their shops and warehouses, by a piece of carpeting, and catalogues of articles, they never had in possession, pinned thereon, with a man and ragged staff placed at the door, that invites you with, *Please to walk in, all sorts of goods selling here by auction.* When you enter something is put up, which my Mock Gentleman Auctioneer may guess you are in want of, and, after expatiating largely on it's goodness, hands it's round to his auditors, among whom are many puffers, or set bidders, placed in order to enhance the value of his commodities, by bringing it up to a standard, as they call it, that is near to it's value, always leaving room for the countryman to bid, which done, down goes the hammer, and you are fixed as the purchaser.

There





*From Scenes like these avert your cautious Eyes,  
Beneath their specious forms much Knavery lies;  
Nor listen when he calls, Walk in, Walk in,  
A Sale of Goods just going to begin.*



## MONEY-DROPPERS. 53

There are so many Mock Auctions, and so many chicaneries practised thereat, that it is impossible to set forth in this little work, a tenth part of the roguery with which they are fraught; however, as the foregoing is amongst the most notorious, shall content myself, for the present, with observing, that they and their arts ought to be avoided by my country friends, if they have resolution to withstand their temptation, and the hand bills of purchasing cheap bargains at their auctions. Let me recommend my reader to the fair trader, whose character and goods will stand the test of examination, who is settled in his shop or warehouse, and which you may know again, from being well used and civilly treated. These, and these only, are the people I can with safety mention, who, on further acquaintance, you place more confidence in, whose uprightness gives a sanction to their dealings, and seldom fails of acquiring them an affluent fortune.

## MONEY-DROPPERS.

THESE gentry generally ply at the most public places in town, and also at fairs and country markets, consisting of three or more in company. The dropping of money is the lure to inveigle countrymen into company, and is accomplished in the following manner; the Dropper, when conveniency suits, lays down a guinea, or other piece of money, close to the countryman, then, in a voice of exultation, exclaims, I have found a guinea; upon which a second comes up, and says,

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Where

54 MONEY-DROPPERS.

Where is it? or, I'll not believe it; Here it is, cries the former, and appeals to the countryman for the truth of his picking it up; who answering in the affirmative, the second claims a share, as they were in company together, upon which the first retorts, if any body has a right to a share, it must be the countryman, who saw it on the ground as well as himself; by this time they are arrived at a house of resort, and the Dropper proposes giving them a treat out of it, if they will walk in, intimating, at the same time, that he intends to consider the countryman as a party concerned, and who has a right to a share thereof; this bait taking, in they go, observed by the third, who hitherto has taken no notice of the others, they call for a room, and something to drink. The Dropper then asks the countryman if he has gotten any silver in change for the guinea, and, according to his answer, they order their matters; while they are engaged in the division of the money, enters the third, who sits down, without seeming to know any present, or their business. On the Dropper's saying he will go out to get change, the second replies it is scarce worth while for seven shillings, and, seeing a pack of cards on the chimney-piece, proposes cutting them for the sum, which the other accepts; the second loses, and the countryman is asked, if he will risk his seven shillings, who, thinking that he can be nothing out of pocket if he loses, accepts the challenge, and wins two or three times, till a game of whist is proposed, and agreed to, if a fourth could be found. The pretended stranger says,

if



if they will accept of a bad player, rather than spoil sport, he will make one; the Dropper and countryman agree to be partners, down they sit, the countryman and partner are successful, they wager on the odd trick, the best trump, double and treble the stakes, till, sad reverse of fortune, the deluded countryman, and his artful partner, are stripped of the last farthing.

The above is the most general practice of the Money-Droppers, in which they have been successful, however they have many other ways of tricking the countryman, at cards or dice, hussling in the hat, producing or shewing most money, with which they set off, and, if other matters fail, knocking the party down and rifling his pockets. To avoid, is to escape danger, therefore I advise my country readers not to be seen amongst them, or taken with their deceptions, of finding money and making them partakers thereof.

## P I M P S.

**T**HESE are a set of despicable wretches, generally composed of French cooks, barbers, and valets, who come over from France, pretend to have been well bred, of an ancient and honourable family, but, through the misconduct of their parents, who have killed their men in duels, or, being descended from protestants, have been persecuted on account of religion, and obliged to take shelter in this land of liberty, and such other like insinuations seldom fails recommending them to our young

young nobility and gentry : Intimating, at the same time, that there is no task, however difficult, but what they will undertake, to give pleasure and delight to their employers. That they have had the honour of bringing my Lord Duke acquainted with several of the most accomplished belles in Paris, with whom they are upon the very best terms, and for which they have been liberally rewarded for their services.

My Lord understands their meaning, takes them into his suite, convinced of their utility by their obsequiousness, immediately employs them as Pimps, in which capacity they excel all Europe. There is generally one, if not more, of these gentry employed by our modern nobility, in making the tour of Italy, imported, on their return, among other exotic fopperies, and new-fashioned vices, in order to compleat the train of our English Maccaronies.

There is no meanness but what they will undergo, and fawn and kiss the hand that, in an angry mood, or on a trivial occasion, slapped their faces, or the foot that kicks them down stairs ; and often provoke the same, to make a merit of their pacific disposition and forgiveness of temper, the better to wheedle themselves into the good graces of their masters, and to be rewarded for their supineness.

These caterers of vice, after having made a fortune in his lordship's family, which they generally do by one means or another, set up for men of fashion, and get themselves introduced into reputable merchants and tradesmen's families, and sometimes marry heiresses, and large

large fortunes, which, in some sort, accounts for the present degenerate race of Maccaronies, being of a spurious breed scarce half begotten. My Lady's affection for Monsieur is evident from my young Lord's likeness unto him; for he acts in a double capacity, pimps for the father, and galants with the mother; gets his Lordship an assignation at one place, and meets my Lady at another. So provident is Monsieur in his amours, that his employment is not suspected by her Ladyship, nor his intrigue found out by his Lordship.

Shew me an Englishman of them all that can play his cards so well; I believe not one is to be found, though the most hardened villain, that would stoop to so great a meanness as to procure his own wife for his employer, which was very recently done, by a Frenchman, not far from Golden Square, which happened as follows:

Being sent out by his lordship, to get him a country girl for amorous dalliance, he visited those houses where generally they are decoyed to on their arrival in town, but his search was without success; knowing his lordship's taste and wants, and observing that he had viewed Mademoiselle his wife with great attention, thought he could not confer a greater obligation on his lordship, or better shew his zeal to serve him, than by making him an offer of his *caro sposa*. Accordingly he went home, told his wife his lordship desired to see her, and she must go immediately, and recommended to her to demean herself civilly, as it was in his lordship's power to do them much good. The wife

wife, struck with horror at the thought, and more so as her husband recommended the unnatural proceeding, remonstrated with him on the heinousness of the crime, but to no purpose; he was resolute, and nothing would satisfy him but her compliance with his lordship's will. Having formed a resolution, away she goes to the place appointed, where his lordship was in waiting for the game, but was greatly shocked on his faithful Pimp's informing him, that it was his own dear chicken he presented him with, and, wishing his lordship a good appetite, withdrew. The poor woman, who was neither old nor ugly, in an agony of despair, fell down on her knees, and begged his lordship's protection from the vilest of creatures, and to secure her honour from violation. His lordship, fired with a noble resentment of the intended villainy, and abject meanness of the rascally Pimp, desired her to rise, and be assured of his protection; upon which she related a cruel scene that happened, before she could be induced to appear before his lordship, having been, by her merciless husband, most cruelly beat, for not consenting to his intended prostitution. His lordship asked in what way he could serve her? she told him, by supplying her with the means of returning to Paris, where her parents lived in repute, and who, on hearing the shameful story, would give her succour and protection; being determined, if possible, never to see or speak with the vile wretch her husband any more.

His lordship accordingly made her an handsome present and sent her home, and ordered  
his



## PROCURERS *and* PROCURESSES. 59

his officious Pimp to be kicked out of doors, for the kind offer made him of his wife.

Monsieur, at present, is in the employ of a noted Procuress in the neighbourhood, and is very assiduous in the seduction of virtue and innocence, way-laying and trappanning country girls on their arrival in town, with professions of being struck at first sight with their beauty, and talking of recommending them to his lady, who wants a country maid, hints they may be better acquainted in time, upon which he gives them a direction to the Procuress, of which I shall further speak under that head, and give a more general caution thereon.

## PROCURERS AND PROCURESSES.

**F**OR there are both men and women employed in procuring innocent young creatures for lecherous debauched devotees; under the former head the Pimp may be considered, of whom I have just spoken, therefore shall confine myself to the other sex, who, if possible, are more pernicious than the men, and more barbarous and cruel in their modes of proceeding.

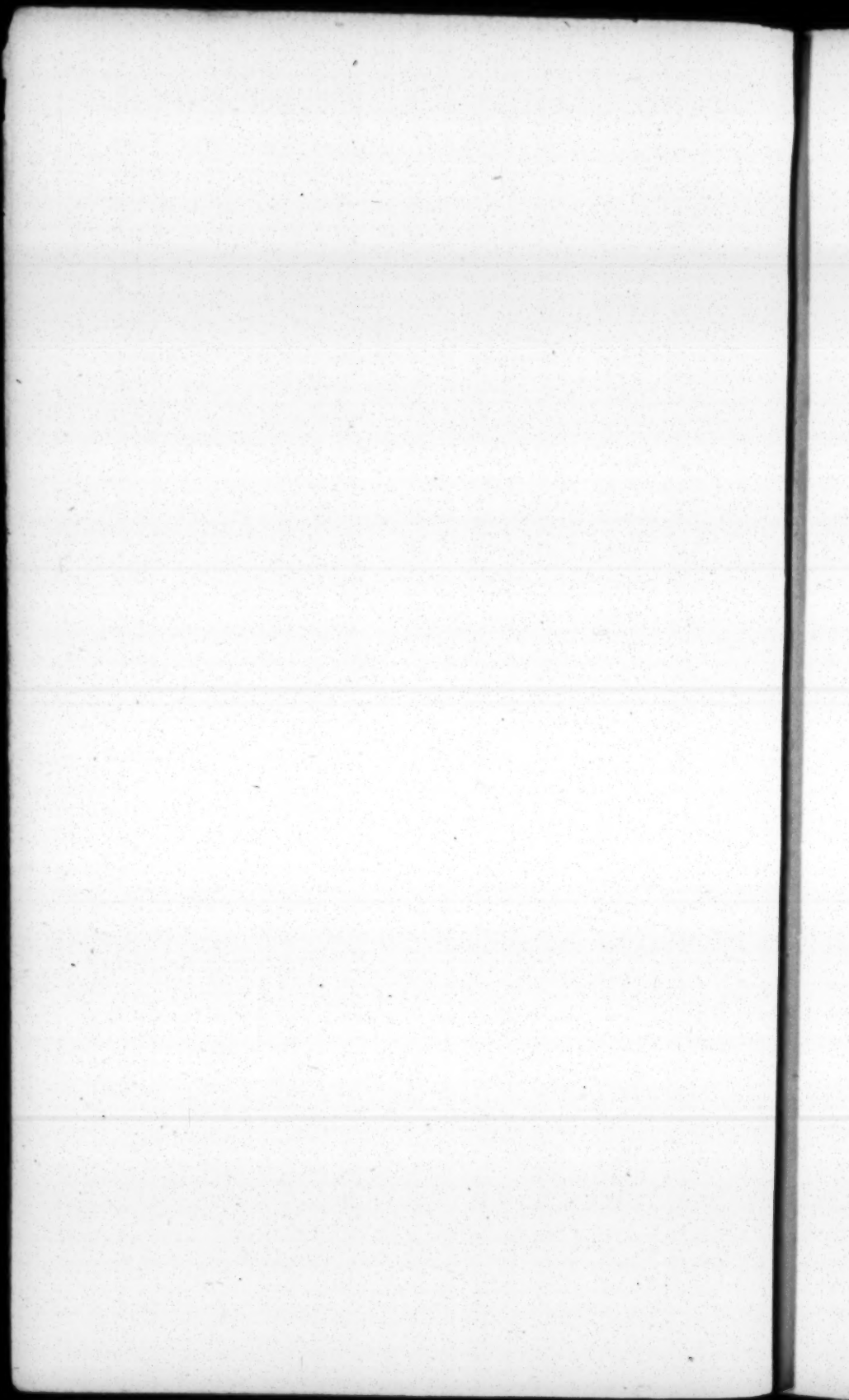
Procureses are frequenters of the church, tavern, and play-houses, are to be met with at the jelly-houses, milliners, perfume shops, at balls, assemblies, and masquerades, in different forms, and different stations of life. Some to insnare youth, by promising them, if they will attend at their houses, to procure the youth an angel of a woman, a relation of her own, but that very day arrived in London, in the height  
of

## 60 PROCURERS *and* PROCURESSES.

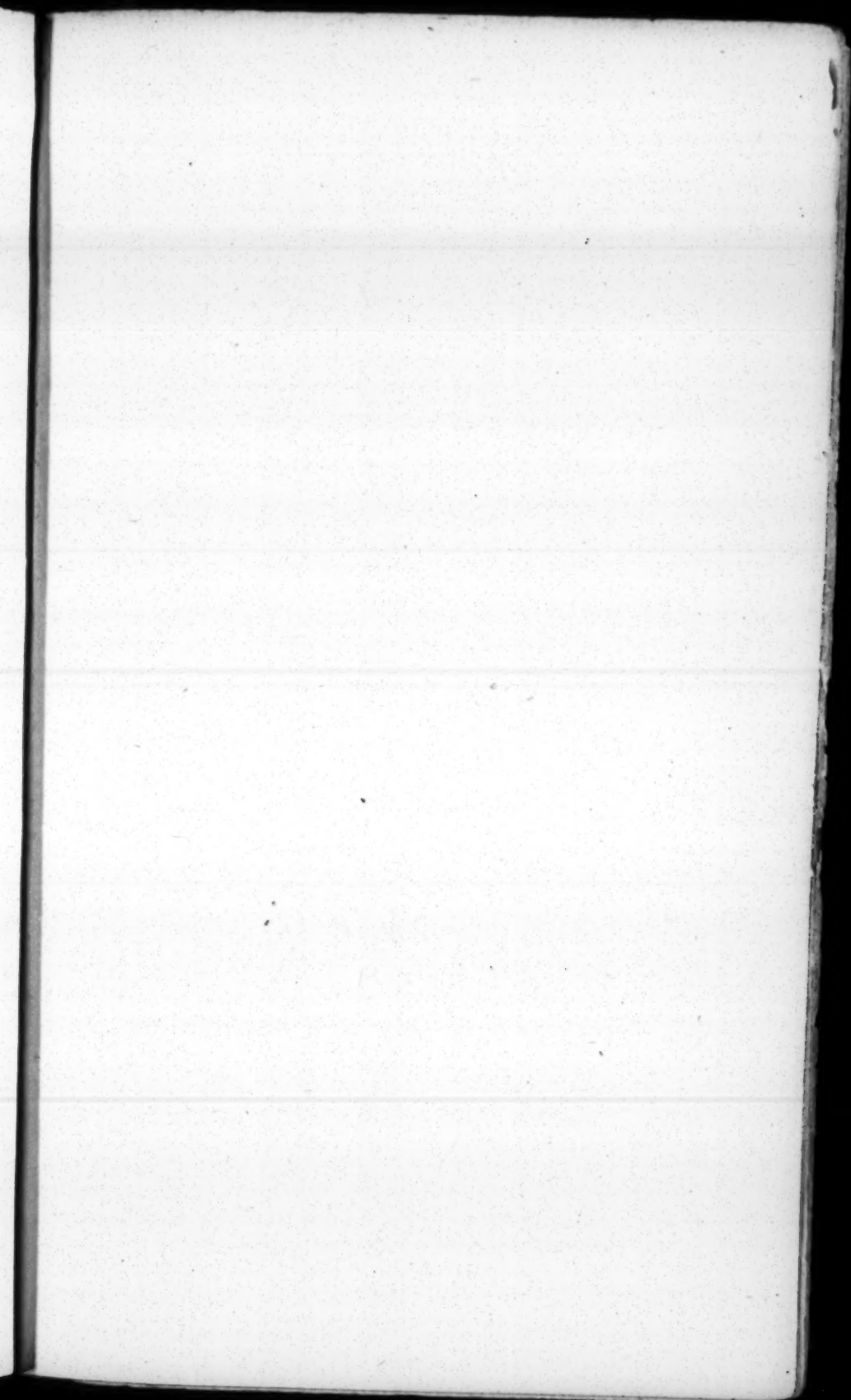
of youth and beauty, whose charms would warm an anchorite, or revive old age, to play again the feats of manhood as in his younger days. By such like speeches they tamper with young men, until they have roused their passions, and set their blood in a ferment, of which they take the advantage to make a bargain, when, in the prodigality of their flame, without consideration, they submit to her own terms, which generally ends in their ruin.

The Procureess is a very industrious woman, always employed in her avocations of picking up countrymen for old stales, or countrywomen for old leachers; and, upon this account, she is to be met with at the inns where coaches and machines put up, and, during the season, at Ranaleigh, Vauxhall, Smith's Gardens, and other places of diversion and recreation, having no less than several score of Dukes, Lords, Knights, and Esquires to provide for against winter, which, she whispers the fair one, will set up their ladies an equipage a-piece, and make them settlements, that will set them on a footing with the first ladies of distinction in the land; observing that the Duke of G——'s kept mistress lives in as much splendor as her Grace, and more caressed by half. And such good fortune she can promise any young woman, if she is but possessed of half the charms, wit, and spriteliness of Miss C——, the milliner, or Miss T——, the mantua-maker; for she had heard his lordship say a thousand times, he should like such a one, with such features as Miss P——, or this young lady, whom I have not the happiness to know. Upon which she









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the principal parts have been played by a Garrick, Yates, Henderson, Barry, King, Abingdon, and other first rate performers. The noted Barrington, who was last detected in picking pockets in St. Sepulchre's church, and for which he was consigned to his old trade of ballast-heaving on the Thames, was not more compleat therein, or more notorious, than the accomplished Miss West, in the avenues leading to the Theatres, who has *as neat a hand for picking a packet* as any one in England, notwithstanding her recent commitment to Bridewell for the same; Barrington, I think, from the time of his releasement from the Thames, (on remitting a part of his sentence for former crimes); was better than two months before retaken for the like offence above stated; Miss West scarce six weeks from her releasement from Newgate, than, by her industrious application to business, she was brought before Sir John Fielding, and committed to her present place of confinement.

To set forth the different ways by which they compleat and effect their nefarious practices, is beyond my ability; therefore shall only observe that, in general, two go together, one before and the other behind the person whose pocket is to be picked, the former of which stops the person, either in a croud, or by a pretended accident, while the other effects the business. Therefore it would be prudent in crouds to keep one hand on your money, and the other on your watch, when you find any one push against you; but, should you be robbed for want of taking proper care to prevent

the same, take no notice till you see some person near you stealing away; him, or her, secure, and ten to one you fix on the right person; you must however be careful of laying hold of their hands, for fear of their conveying your property to an accomplice, which is always ready to receive the same, and then set off.

Some Pickpockets are very dexterous in this way, by introducing their hands, without perception, into the very bottom of the breeches pocket, and taking out the money, none more so than the above mentioned Miss West; others in introducing their hands up ladies petticoats, laying hold of the pocket, and making an incision with knife or scizzars, and letting out the contents into their hands without discovery, which they immediately deliver to their associates without stirring, the better to prevent detection.

Pickpockets do not confine themselves to London, but travel all over the country, to fairs and races, and are to be met with on the stands, and in the booths, to the cost of many gentlemen and others, who have lost purses, watches, rings, and pocket-books, of which they never after received any account. Pocket-books are only secure in the inside pockets, and the coat buttoned; watch-chains should be run through a small loop contrived for the purpose of securing the watch in the fob, of which I have seen many. But, at these public places, it is necessary for my readers to be upon their guard, as they cannot be insensible of the gentry they have amongst them, from the many losses and complaints made thereof.

QUACKS.



## Q U A C K S.

**T**HESSE are a set of vile wretches, who pretend to be versed in physick and surgery, without education, or even the knowledge of a common recipe. Many of them, having spent some years in an apothecary's shop, and been used to carry out medicines, set up for themselves, to cure a certain disorder, by which they ruin the health and constitution of those unhappy countrymen that fall into their clutches. If they think the patients are able to pay handsomely, they make them believe their case is desperate, and, by continuing them under their care longer than necessary, generally turn them out much worse than they took them in, or, at best, but patch them up for a while; and every body of experience must know that it is more pernicious than the disorder itself, as it is the means of bringing on a worse and more fatal one.

The daily puffs and hand bills distributed in the papers, and at the corner of almost every street in London, methinks, should be sufficient to warn every thinking and prudent person from believing their assertions, of curing almost all disorders by a single medicine, if he considers that there is not two constitutions alike, and therefore what might be efficacious to the one, might ruin the other. But there is a fatality, if I may be allowed the expression, that hangs about the unthinking countryman, on his arrival at London, of first visiting the bawdy-house, and then the Quacks, and both in

## 68 RECEIVERS *of* STOLEN GOODS.

in the way of cheapness. He may contract a disease for two shillings and six pence, as well as for five pounds; but he cannot be cured by the Quack for the former sum, and, unless in desperate cases, the regular bred doctor or surgeon will not charge him the latter. But the fact is, he being ashamed to make his case known to the faculty, and for fear of being put to greater expence, applies from one Quack to the other, until he has paid five times the sum for which he might have been set at rights, if he had made a proper application to the regulars at first, but, as the case now stands, it is ten to one if he is cured at last.

The Quacks that run about the country, under the denomination of Mountebank Doctors, and wheedle the deluded multitude with worm-cakes for children, and sticking-plasters for corns, &c. are productive of much mischief, and send many children to the church yard, through their quackeries and the credulities of the mothers, are equally to be avoided.

Therefore I wish my readers in general, in case of sickness of any kind, to apply to the faculty, who have liberal educations and notions, joined to experience and fair characters, to keep up the port of this life, without which no man is to be trusted.

## RECEIVERS *OF* STOLEN GOODS.

**T**HE old proverb is verified in saying, *There would be no Thieves, if there were no Receivers of Stolen Goods.* The many recent complaints made at the public offices of justice, the many

## RECEIVERS of STOLEN GOODS. 69

many detections and prosecutions carried on against these gentry, from day to day, are numerous, and without end. As this is a species of villainy well known in this metropolis, and it's environs, I can throw little new light upon the same, except a few observations that occur from some late mal-practices, investigated by Sir John Fielding, at the Public Office, in Bow Street, which do honour to his profession as a justice, and his knowledge and understanding as a man versed in the laws of his country.

A few days ago, amongst other offenders brought before him, was an eminent tradesman of Holborn, for the above offence, who, upon former like occasions, has been a visitant at that bar, but, for want of sufficient proofs, had the good fortune to escape. As an account of the whole transaction would take up more of this little book than I can spare, I shall briefly lay before my readers a short detail thereof:

Four notorious thieves, among whom was *Flint*, lately discharged from on board the *Justitia* hulk at Woolwich, having received his majesty's free pardon, for stealing a pair of diamond ear-rings from a Mr. Cox, refiner, in Little Britain, set up his old trade again, under the appearance of a sword cutler, being his original profession, instructing two boys in the art of thieving; the method taught them was, to stop boys in the streets, who were sent out with parcels, and to get the same from them, either by telling them to go on a message for them, or by treating them with liquor, and, in the mean time, conveying their prizes to

## 70 RECEIVERS of STOLEN GOODS.

to Mr. *Flint*, who had a convenient *Lock* to deposit them in. Several felonies being proved, and the articles found at Mr. P——'s, gave not only suspicion but warranty for taking him up, the thieves deposing they had sold the same to him under price; upon which the prosecutors were bound over against the prisoners for the divers felonies, and *Flint* and his friend P—— as receivers, and accordingly they were all committed to take their trials.

There are many beside Mr. P——, in this city, that encourage thieves, nay, that keep them in pay when out of employ, and deduct the same out of the next good bargain they meet with. Chick-lane, Rag-fair, and the Tower-hamlets, are full of these petty broker's shops, where you may dispose of your ill gotten goods, without being asked that necessary question of "How came you by them?" Other parts of the town are not without their share of Receivers of stolen Goods, who make a practice and trade of it, to the detriment and great injury of the fair trader, as well as the persons robbed of their property, to supply these nefarious beings with articles of every denomination, and for which diabolical proceedings, should justice be done them, they will be rewarded with an halter.

It is a great pity that no method can be found to put a stop to this illicit trade, now carrying on, with universal success, to the ruin of hundreds. The provision made by law for these defaulters is very competent on detection, but the mode of detecting them is difficult, and hard to be found out, which is the reason so many



## RECEIVERS *of* STOLEN GOODS. 71

many escape the punishment they justly deserve, and carry their heads in triumph above the honest and industrious who labour for their daily bread.

I can only think of one way, at present, to put a stop to the Receivers of stolen Goods, and that is, by a law being made to oblige every one to keep a proper book of entry of their whole stock in trade, with the person's name they bought it of, their residence, and the price given, to be inspected by proper people appointed for that purpose, who should, at all times, and on all occasions, have egress thereto, in order, as far as possible, to prevent the reception of goods stolen; which being effected, felonies of course would cease, and the abandoned obliged to make a virtue of necessity, and become honest and industrious, not only on compulsion, but in order to preserve the means of existence.

Until some more effectual method, than at present exists, for preventing the atrocities here complained of can be found, we may live in jeopardy and fear of the cheats and thieves, daily preying on the lives and properties of our fellow citizens, and countrymen in general, for whom they are continually laying baits and traps to enveigle and ensnare, until they have a fit opportunity to devour and destroy them without remorse or mercy.

SPUNGERS.

## S P U N G E R S.

THESE gentry are scarce to be distinguished from the *Hanger-on*, except, if possible, being more impudent, and generally in low life, frequenters of the Garden in order to pick up a dinner, and the Park to get a bottle. Whenever they meet with a countryman, they salute him with the time of the day, or a description of the weather, entertain him with a story of little consequence, till they have artfully wheedled him into an invitation for them to dine or sup with him, on the promise of a song, or of meeting with some jolly blades, the heartiest lads in the world for a catch or funny story, to make him split his sides with laughter. Can tell you where the best entertainment is to be met with; which is the best comedian; can get them introduced to see such an actress, to hear this sing, or that spout; will provide them with the best seat at the play-house, or keep places for them in the front row of the first gallery, if they prefer it to the pit; can procure a ticket for the Museum, or Exhibition Rooms, for half the price it would cost them to go alone, and explain every thing to them as well as the librarians themselves.

These Spungers are easily to be known by their appearance; when in the streets, walking with a countryman, they are full of talk and observation of this house, and of that woman, seem to know every body, their business, and connections; pull off their hats to every well dressed gentleman and lady they meet, though  
perhaps

perhaps they never saw either one or the other before, will give you their whole history another time, or now, if you have leisure to hear it. On the arrival at your inn, you generally, out of complaisance for the stranger's civility and intelligence, invite him to dinner, which he as readily accepts; after which he will invite himself to a pipe and bottle by way of digestion, and, becoming familiar and acquainted on a sudden, he will stick as close to you, during your stay in London, as bird-lime, and suck you like a leech, give him but the smallest encouragement, but seldom or ever mentions "What is there?" or, "What have I to pay?" leaving that for you to do, in requital for his company and conversation, bestowed upon you without solicitation.

If your inclination is for mischief, he is the only man in the world to assist you; would you break the lamps, or beat the watchmen, he will stand by, and cry bravo! till you are conveyed to the roundhouse, but not engage in the quarrel himself, acting as a *corps de reserve*: when you are taken, he will negotiate with the constable of the night about your ransom, for which you must pay smartly, otherwise be detained till justice opens her doors to descry and punish your enormities, according to the nature of the crime committed; upon which the Spunger says, that he foresaw, and told you the consequences that would happen, if you persevered in your mischief, but you would not listen to his admonition and advice.

These and many more artifices the Spunger has at will, to live upon your credulity during

your stay in town, and often laments the time of your departure drawing nigh, which will rob him of the dearest friend he ever formed connection with; promises, by presents, to make recompense for the civilities received, in a short time; intimates that a brace of birds, hare, or gammon of bacon, will be acceptable, on your return home, as remembrancers of friendship and esteem, and sometimes leaves you with hypocritical tears and feigned sorrow. Therefore, against their arts and wiles, I warn you to take care, having said sufficient to guard you against them.

## S H A R P E R S.

**T**HE Sharper, generally having had a liberal and genteel education, being a person of good address and conversation, has more the power of delusion at will, than the unlettered cheat, devoid of address, and the other requisites to compleat the pretended gentleman, and therefore more carefully should be avoided. These defaulters, having run through their fortunes, at an early period of life, by associating with professed Gamblers and Sharpers, who, having eased them of their money, in return compleat them for the profession by which they have been taken in; thus qualified, they set up for themselves, throw aside honour and conscience, and quote the *lex taliones* for deceiving others as they themselves have been deceived.

These gentry are to be met with at all public places of diversion, the Horse-race, Cock-fight,



fight, Billiard and Hazard tables. Pretend to be men of quality, or of independent fortunes, many of which keep their equipage and *fille de joy's*, without a foot of land, or shilling in the funds; merely by the dint of industry, in *taking* in the unthinking spendthrift, just come to possession of his estate, and qualifying him for the same laudable profession on the expenditure thereof, to enable him to *rub* through life by the art of calculation. Being, through theory as well as unremitting practice, compleat proficient in the different games they play, seldom are deceived in the skill and management of their antagonists, and, in a very short time, can discover whether they are professors, or only novices, and accordingly play the game to the best advantage.

On your entering the tavern, coffee, or gaming-house, the Sharper views you with attention, and is not long before he becomes acquainted and very intimate with you; if you accept his proposal to play, if he cannot beat you by fair he will by foul means; rather than lose, he will elude your attention, or raise your passion, sufficiently to put you off your guard, while he plays his underhand game, and cheats you before your face, and though you are sensible of being cheated, yet you shall not be able to discover by what methods it is effected.

So fallacious are these Sharpers that they will prey upon their friends and nearest relations, rather than lay idle and unemployed; yet seldom engage each other, unless for instruction, and to keep themselves in practice. The generous and unsuspecting gentleman is often

fleeced of his birth-right and inheritance, by entering into partnership with the Sharper, who is artful and industrious in losing to his associates, and cheating the friend that intrusted him, and paid a regard to his instructions; thoroughly convinced of his pretended rectitude and honesty. The game over, and the gentleman gone, the Sharpers divide the spoil amongst them, and laugh at the inexperience and folly of the deluded, ending with, "he does not yet *know life*."

The various methods Sharpers have to cheat and deceive, are so many and unaccountable, that I cannot recount a tenth part of them; their study is to supply their exigencies by any means within their power, however atrocious or wicked. I have known some of them, in high life, (and no unfrequent thing neither) to invite their acquaintance and neighbours to dine or sup with them, for no other purpose than to make them pay severely for the treat, by proposing cards after supper, which is generally done by one of the accomplices, and agreed to by another; the master, upon these occasions, sometimes is left out, the better to carry on the design, and prevent suspicion of foul play, or, at least, of his having a hand in it for that time; sometimes makes one, but generally loses with every partner he engages, till the company in purse are bankrupts, and the Sharpers the only gainers thereby. Many a round sum is raised by them in this manner, to save them from a jail, or to supply the luxurious and abandoned lives they lead, with every delicate and viand in season, and with which  
their

their tables are furnished, and cellars stored, as a bait to catch gudgeon, who are fond of nibbling thereat.

Their consciences being seared, regardless of the censure of the world, the behests of humanity, plunged in different vices, without moral sentiment, or honour, is it to be wondered at if even they cheat their father or brother at play, much less their friends, acquaintance, and mankind in general?

If you associate with Sharpers you must not only expect, but deserve, to be cheated by them for your credulity, insufficiency, or stupidity: For who would go, with his eyes open, into a den of thieves, but in expectation of being robbed? or who would herd with Sharpers, and not expect to be cheated? Therefore, my advice is to shun these reptiles of the creation, fraught with guile, and artful as the serpent to delude. Beware their conversation, shun their company, take no notice of their tricks and fancies, nor be caught with their wheedling professions of friendship; listen not unto them or their enticements, if you would preserve your peace and property; be not fond of making new acquaintance with persons whose characters you are strangers to, however genteel in appearance and behaviour, for many a Sharp-er lurks under the disguise of our modern fine gentlemen, as daily experience fatally shews.

( 78 ) A H 3  
S W I N D L E R S.

**O**F all the vices, frauds, and cheats, inserted and exposed to the reader's view and inspection, there is not one that has been more successful, though of an old standing, than the modern and infant one of swindling, which has been newly set up, compared to the antiquity of most of the foregoing, and which, like the plague, still rages throughout these kingdoms with devastation, to the great wrong and injury sustained thereby, both in town and country. To explode the pernicious practice, and the bad tendency produced, may, in some measure, stop the progress of this growing evil, and, in one respect or other, crush the hydra before it has power to do further mischief; I shall therefore be as circumspect as possible in relating one or two of the most glaring and flagrant deceptions practiced on the unwary, in order to give the readers an insight into the nefarious and audacious proceedings of Swindlers, that they may be enabled to procrastinate any future attempts of the like nature being imposed upon them by these pests of society.

This new species of knavery, carried on by Swindlers, appears spacious in itself, the practitioners thereof setting themselves up for men of property and integrity, the more easily to gull the unwary and ignorant out of their substance and effects; to obtain which, among many, the following is practised: A number of them being connected together, take a genteel house, in a reputable part of the town,  
and



and divide themselves into classes of masters, clerks, out-riders, shopmen, porters, and servants. From their making a shew of opulency they easily obtain credit, and lay in goods of every kind, which they send into the country, and sell or barter for other commodities, which they bring up to London and sell for ready money, generally taking in exchange double the quantity, and paying for the same with notes of their own drawing, indorsing, and fabricating, for the purposes of defrauding and cheating the poor deluded farmer, shopkeeper, and tradesman, in the interior parts of the country. With respect to the tradesmen in town, the goods they take of them on trust, they dispose of to Jews, and other receivers of stolen goods, at about thirty per cent. ready money, may fifty per cent. rather than not touch the ready; and, as their stay in a place cannot consistently be above six months, on account of their creditors calling in their debts, and their country notes becoming due, they make all possible dispatch imaginable to dispose of the various articles, and to evacuate the premises before detection. This done, they play the same game over again, when, *Proteus* like, they change shapes, and disguise themselves not to be known, and carry on another house, but in another name; the master becomes the rider, the rider the master, the clerks descend to footmen and porters, the porters and footmen to clerks, and so on afresh, till such time they have drained the different parts of town and country, to the ruin of many a worthy and honest family.

These

These Swindlers have been very artful in evading the law, in the negociation of the bad notes they have circulated about the country. They are generally done on copper-plates, as neatly as the bankers; some of them are drawn at sight, others at a longer, or shorter date, as suits their conveniency; the drawer carries them about him all over the country and disposes of them, a second indorses, a third accepts, but not one is found to pay.

In the west of England, about three years ago, several were detected in their illicit practices, taken up, and committed to prison, but escaped the justice they deserved, for want of sufficient proof of their uttering counterfeit notes, having, as I before observed, fabricated them amongst themselves, in defiance of the present law in force against defrauds of this nature. However, it is to be hoped that for the future, the legislative power will enact such salutary means, as thoroughly will elucidate and distinguish the offences they are guilty of, by taking cognizance of the intent, as well as the atrocious actions, of these incorrigible rogues, and new invented cheats of mankind, which they daily pourtray, to the injury of trade and commerce, and the ruin of those who unhappily, through ignorance or inattention, fall into the snares laid for them by these harpies of dissipation and malevolence.

Swindlers have other means of cheating and tricking the public, such as answering the advertisements of poor and indigent tradesmen, who are in want of a sum to make good a payment, and protect their credit being blown upon,,

upon, by not being able to make remittances in due time, of which they take advantage, by pretending lenity and humanity, and from a charitable and benevolent disposition, on hearing their complaints, offering, in consideration of a small premium, to get them the money required, on their notes of hand, which they promise must be first given, and the money will be immediately advanced; the necessitated agrees to the terms, and, unthinkingly, gives his note, which one of the Swindlers carries away, with a promise of quick return with the necessary. But, alas! they are deceived, neither the Swindler or note is forth coming until such time it becomes due, after having passed through many different hands, some of whom can ascertain giving a valuable consideration for the same, and fix the drawer with the payment thereof, whose only consolation for his credulity is, paying the money, or going to prison. Sad alternative! but no medium is to be found between the two extremes. By these frequent practices (I may say daily exhibited) many are ruined, and gain experience, at the expence of fortune and credit, without hopes of restitution or remedy.

In case of no such advertisements, and a stagnation of trade, the Swindlers advertize themselves to borrow or lend upon good securities. If they borrow, they have sham deeds, and make false conveyances of estates, in *nubibus*; if they lend, they artfully enveigle the borrower out of his security, which they borrow money upon, and convert to their own use, without the poor deluded person's

person's knowledge, and, by absconding, leave him to the mortification of descanting on their roguery, and his want of perspicacity and foresight into the catastrophe that generally follows; consequences sometimes attended with the most aggravating circumstances, and fatal in the last degree.

In case of detection in any of the foregoing instances, the Swindlers are never unprovided with bail, having associates for the purpose, in order to extricate them from difficulties that frequently arise, from their nefarious exhibitions and unwarrantable proceedings. If the case admits of a doubt, and to be over-ruled by affirmations, they never are at a loss for affidavits to prove the legality and uprightness of their dealings; if, on the contrary, they are not within the limits of probability, they abscond, and leave the prosecutors and the law to settle the matters as to them may seem meet.

Swindlers are composed of Jews, Germans, Frenchmen, and natives, of idle and dissipated lives, bankrupts and insolvents, who, having bartered in fraud, and investigated the inside of a prison, have qualified themselves for the commitment of any offence against conscience, law, and religion. Having been at the *University*\*, from whence they return with contaminated morals, fraught with craft and subtlety, they set out, in defiance of law, honour, or honesty, as Swindlers, or Smugglers, (the *College*† being a receptacle for both these pro-

\* A cant expression for the King's Bench, Fleet Prison, &c.

† Ibidem.



essions) and glory in cheating and defrauding all those that have not been educated in the same seminary with themselves. It is a true saying, "That a prison never mends a person's morals," In Swindlers it is thoroughly verified, most of them being tutored therein, and let loose upon the world to ravage and destroy, to the injury of the fair trader, and public in general.

These defaulters, notwithstanding all their arts and insinuations, are easily to be singled out from the rest of mankind; from a pretended hurry in business, and suspicion of detection; eyeing every person that comes into company askance, as doubtful of their having seen them before; pulling out their pocket-books, and displaying numbers of counterfeit checks and notes; seldom staying long in a public place frequented by company, getting into privacy with the novices they intend to cheat, and such like underhand and shame-faced dealings, sufficiently announce these Swindlers, and their atrocities, to the observant and speculative mind, careful of encountering these sons of rapine and plunder, whose actions and defaults are notorious; to be avoided and detected. The countryman, therefore, will be wary of the acquaintance he makes with such as are here described; be careful of dealing with these rascals about the country, by not listening to their delusive persuasions, or enticements, to change or purchase their commodities, and accept their notes and drafts in exchange, or otherwise take notice of their proceedings, except by endeavouring to detect and bring to justice

justice these lawless and abandoned miscreants, that over-run the country at large, to the great nuisance and detriment thereof.

In short, to guard against Swindlers, and their before recited proceedings, are of the greatest consequence to every tradesman, either in town or country; experience of the world will teach them to guard against, and the most unthinking may be satisfied, that the principles of every one is not founded on the basis, or guided by the line of honesty. These considerations should induce mankind in general, and more especially the trading part, to act as circumspectly as possible, and then they would not be liable and in danger of meeting and encountering misfortunes, that are always attendant on the credulous and unwary.

#### S E T T E R S.

**T**HES E are a despicable set of wretches who are capable of committing any villainy; from the trepanning of a rich heir into matrimony with a cast off mistress, or common prostitute; or coupling a young heir with a notorious sharper, down to the lowest ebb of setting debtors for the bailiff and his followers. Their lives are one continued scene of fraud and deception, schemers of the first magnitude to gain a subsistence, possessed of every vice to suit their machinations, fraught with every evil to compleat their desires, and render them permanent. Be it lying, cheating, dissimulation, flattery, or hypocrisy, they have them all at their beck, and

and can make use of them at their pleasure, to assist them in the prosecution of mischief.

So artful are these Setters, that if you once fall into their snares it will be difficult to get you out on this side ruin. Among other practices, they pretend friendship and sincerity; and, making a gay appearance, you are induced to believe them; sometimes assuming the airs and dignity of persons of quality, offer to introduce you to one of the greatest heiresses in England, or beauty in the world, after enquiring your possessions; a sister, daughter, or ward under their disposal or guardianship. Inflamed with love and wine, you fly to the divinity portrayed, and, by candle light, find her answer, and sometimes exceed, the favourable description you received of her beauty, or of her wealth, by the grandeur and state she for that only night lives in, having hired the house and furniture for the purpose of celebrating her nuptials. Smitten with the first glance of the goddess, you resign your heart and hand at discretion, which she immediately accepts, on a presumption that delays are dangerous. The conjugal knot being tied, like the Copper Captain in the play, you find the promised and wished for lands, houses, and furniture, the property of *another*, not *yourself*. What is to be done? carry the bride home, and confess yourself duped into an arrant husband? or make a settlement and articles of separation. The latter, being the most rational, generally takes place; the Setter is made trustee, the lady contented, and you dissolved from a patched up marriage, calculated to plague or ruin you.

H

Many

Many of these marriages now a days take place without the aid of a Setter, both in high and low life. The gentleman and lady meet at the masquerade, or assembly, the question is asked, the consent obtained, the parson in readiness, the ceremony performed, to bed they go to—*repent at leisure.*

The Smith, having married two or three wives before, and in want of another, meets Betty in Bedford Row, asks her if she will be married? Betty drops a curtsy and says “if you please;” the junction is formed, and, long before night, a storm’s presaged from the cloudy brows of the new made bride, on poor *Vulcan’s* getting drunk on his wedding day, which breaks upon his unsuspecting head in *thunder*, *lightning*, and in *rain*. If my reader wants instances of the assertions, I can quote him many beside the above well known facts. Betty is daily to be seen reading penitential psalms and hymns, her husband, since their marriage, having wrought a reformation in her manners: I recommended to her perusal *The Holy Bible in Verse\**, being fond of poetical religion, which she and her helpmate may get by heart, and lay in a store of grace, of which at present they seem deficient of.

But to return from digression: let me implore th countryman on his arrival in London, let his station in life be what it may, not to enter

\* This Bible is dedicated to the Prince of Wales, an entire new work, printed in numbers, at six pence each, by Mr. Fellows, author of a poem called *Grace Triumphant*, and well worthy the mature perusal of our readers, who are delighted with sweet concord and harmony of sound.



## S M U G G L E R S. 87

into the Setter's *projects, schemes, or intrigues*, for if he cannot palm a wife upon you, he may thereby entangle you, and draw you into bonds, notes, or agreements, to the ruin of yourselves and fortune. In one word, of all villains the Setter is the most dangerous, his subsistence depends upon the ruin of the unthinking and deluded countryman, whose pernicious wiles are too often successful in traduction and deceit, as woeful experience thoroughly evinces, in many unhappy creatures brought to beggary by their means, who are now pining loathsome life away in want and misery.

## S M U G G L E R S.

**T**HES E are a numerous race of people that have no other way of existence than by following the illicit and illegal practice of smuggling. Men of desperate fortunes, among whom the farmer and shop-keeper sometimes may be found; who, notwithstanding the severity of the law when put in execution against them, has little or no effect upon their morals; being thrown into prison, they still, by the assistance of their colleagues, carry on the smuggling branch within doors, by retailing coffee, tea, china, and other contraband goods, to the injury of the fair trader.

Two different gangs are concerned to carry on this wicked business; the first to run the goods from abroad, and the other to dispose of them when landed: but if the first could be taken, and punished as they deserve, the latter would fall of course.

## 88 S M U G G L E R S.

The method taken for many years by the Commissioners of the Customs, to whose care the water guard is committed, was to fit out armed vessels to cruize on the Smugglers, but the Smugglers for a long time out built, and frequently bid them defiance; and the reason was evident, at that time no provision being made for the men employed in that service, or their families, in case they were disabled or killed, nor any reward for apprehending at sea these worst as well as most desperate, of malefactors. It is apprehended that a want of sufficient encouragement to the persons employed in that dangerous service, was the cause of the increase and continuation of the evil complained of.

Yet, notwithstanding the regulations that have since been made, and the encouragement given, in order to suppress the Smugglers, I do not see but they are as plenty in 1778 as they were in 1745, and rob the government at this day, of as much as the Smugglers did at that, which I have hereunder recited, in order to shew the attrocities committed.

By a particular account of goods smuggled in the county of Suffolk, from May to January 1745, it appears that great quantities were run, by several gangs well armed, from vessels which put into *Benazer*, *Sizeiwell*, and other places, loaded on horses, from twenty to two hundred in a body; the total of them was 4551, and, supposing their loading to be one-half tea, and one-half brandy, the loss to the revenue and nation, by specie carried abroad, stood thus:

# S M U G G L E R S. 89

2275 Horses loaded, with  
 tea at one hundred  
 and half each, the  
 neat pounds will be 382,144, at 2s. 6d. per  
 lb. for custom and ex-  
 cise, is - - - - £.47768  
 And at 2s. per lb. for  
 the first cost abroad, is £.38216  
 2276 Horses loaded with  
 brandy, at one hun-  
 dred and half each,  
 will be about 21 gal-  
 lons per horse, making  
 47,796 gallons neat,  
 at about 5s. a gallon  
 for excise and custom,  
 is - - - - £.11949  
 And at 2s. a gallon for  
 the first cost abroad, is £. 4779

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4551 horses. £.59717 £.42995

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It was the general opinion that more than two-thirds of the above was tea; if so, the loss to the revenue and specie carried abroad, would rise proportionably higher.

If such was the loss to our country in a few months, in the year 1745, by the custom of smuggling, what must it be now? certainly a great deal more, to the ruin of many an honest and fair trader. Since that period there has not been, as I can find, any decrease in luxury and dissipation, which may justly be said to be

the protectors of Smugglers, and cause of their various successes.

Many ways have been thought of to suppress them, but to little purpose, few considering them in the light of robbers of their King and country, and therefore wink at their atrocities, and seem more inclined to help and screen, than to detect and bring them to justice. The women in particular are great encouragers of smuggling, and scruple not to say "there is no harm in cheating the King of his duty in a little tea for our own consumption;" and, rather than buy of the fair dealer, will give more to the Smuggler for what is not so good, hugging themselves at the same time with the pleasing thoughts of having purchased a great bargain.

Smugglers, in general, are resolute daring offenders, and many of them, from a natural aversion to the Revenue Officers, have, without any provocation, maimed and murdered them. Scarce a week passes but we hear of skirmishes between these desperadoes and the officers of the customs, whereby many of both parties are inhumanly and unmercifully destroyed, the one in the discharge of his duty, the other in the protection of his run goods. Amongst the latter are as great cheats as ever existed, for it is no new thing with them to sell you their contraband and prohibited commodities one day, and to inform against you the next.

Therefore it behoves my readers to be wary and circumspect with whom they have dealings; I need not tell them that, beside the risk they run in purchasing their goods and having them



## S H O P L I F T E R S. 91

them seized, they are liable to be exchequered, fined, and confined, during life or pleasure, or that the commodity they buy seldom answers their expectation. Let me advise them, as herein before, to trade only with the fair dealer, and then they will have nothing to fear on that head, but be able, according to their circumstances, to enjoy life, and the fruits of their labour, unmolested by Custom-house Officers, or the stings of conscience, which, one time or other, in a greater or less degree, prey upon the minds of defaulters above pourtrayed.

## S H O P L I F T E R S

**A**RE as pernicious to the trading part of the community as any of the foregoing cheats mentioned, and do to the full as much mischief both in town and country. I believe there is hardly a city or market town throughout England, but what it's inhabitants have experienced the above assertion. Lace shops, jewellers, silversmiths, mercers, linen-drapers, haberdashers, and hosiers, are the greatest sufferers by them; on these shops they fix, being the most likely to be robbed, and from these they get the greatest property: such as rings, watches, buckles, and trinkets of different kinds are to be had at the jewellers and silversmiths; half a dozen cards of lace lie in a small compass, and easily conveyed away from the laceman. Linen, cambrick, or muslin, ribbands, &c. the Shoplifters will be in possession of, in three or four hours, to the value of some score of pounds, and if they get less than

than ten or twelve pounds a day, many of them think their time but ill employed. As there is not, on a moderate calculation, in and about this metropolis, less than an hundred and forty or fifty of these nefarious exhibitors, it is really shocking to think what prejudice they do the trading part of the industrious public, one half of whom are not sensible of this, from being deprived of their goods without ever coming to a knowledge thereof. The Shoplifter's genteel appearance and address is their great protection, as they, by these means, prevent the injured party's suspecting their intentions.

To effect these robberies they go in different parties of two each from their place of association, and upon some occasions it is necessary to add a third for the completion of their schemes; that is, when they go from shop to shop in order to do a deal of business, a man is added to two women, to receive and secure the prize the women have taken in one shop before they enter another, to prevent any thing being found upon them in case of detection.

These Shoplifters have different provinces; the ladies are visitants of the linen-draper, mercer, haberdasher, and laceman; they enter the shop with complaisance in their countenance, and deception in their hearts, desire to see this and that, until they have half filled the counter: when they think there is sufficient for them to answer their purpose, one of the women holds the seller in discourse about the lowest price of one article, while her colleague steals another, and claps under her petticoats,

coats, where there is a hook for the reception of any thing bulky; if it should be lace, it is easily conveyed through the pocket-hole and put under the stays, which done, some trifle being purchased, away they go, without suspicion, to a convenient place, where the third is in waiting to receive the contents; if in case the articles stolen should be missed, and the parties secured it will little avail if they once get out of the shop, as the things are immediately disposed of to the accomplice, and, as you find nothing upon them, neither can you convict them. Therefore linen-draper, and others, should be careful of being deluded by the specious arts and stories of these grand defaulters, whose intention is to amuse, and withdraw you from suspecting their business, till they have compleated the same, and left you to comment thereon at your leisure.

The men's business lies amongst lace shops, jewellers, and silversmiths; cloths, linens, &c. being too cumbersome for their conveyance; not having the same advantages with the women, they generally make amends by quickness and dexterity. When their attention is fixed on a watch, ring, or other article of value, their accomplice perceives it, and immediately engages the master, with pointing out a flaw in such a piece of goods, while the other, as nimble as a juggler, conveys the intended booty into his side-pocket, with so quick a movement, that it is imperceptible to the acuteest eye, when fixed upon another person. The first having played his part, the second does the same, till having fleeced the shop of  
as

as much as they can conveniently carry away without detection, buy a pair or two of sleeve-buttons, or some such trifle, and make their escape without suspicion.

The jewellery branch is not the most unprofitable, as either one or two may carry it on; the articles that are small, these gentry unperceived, will secrete in the palms of their hands, throw into their pockets, mouth, and other places about them, when ever they see the jeweller's eye unemployed about their person, that being the time to compleat the theft in contemplation, and to get off unsuspected.

It is necessary that every tradesman should be upon his guard, and keep a sharp look out after his customers, not knowing by their appearance whether they are honest or otherwise. If he has no reason for suspicion, yet precaution will do him no injury, rather be of advantage, for the Shoplifter knows, from the very countenance of the tradesman, whether he is easily to be taken in, by the alertness and attention paid to every manœuvre of the customer; and if more than one, a significant nod to the journeyman or apprentice, convinces the thief that he is watched, if not suspected, upon which he withdraws himself without a booty. If the above was duly observed, or, on many customers being present, a third or fourth person was to be employed in taking a survey thereof, I am well assured so many complaints would not be made, nor so much reason for it, by in part frustrating and detecting the intention and cheats daily practiced on the tradesman, through his want of perspicacity  
and



and duly attending to the necessary avocations of his calling, for the protection and security of his property, from these rapacious plunderers of the negligent and unwary.

## T R A P P E R S.

**A**RE a set of wicked wretches that take every advantage in their power of the unthinking countryman, once lost to virtue, and the companion of pimps, pandors, bawds, and whores, though for a single night. The method of affecting and properly laying the trap, is done by the assistance of a big bellied whore, whom the Trapper introduces as one to be provided for by the whole community; the pimp and pandor must come down in providing for the young stranger, as well as the countryman, cully, and novice, every one subscribing under the notion of being the father, an individual maintenance for mother and child, or a warrant immediately is got to compel you, the parish officers sent for, the whore ready to swear that you are the father, and by these means the matter is settled; a wife, maintenance, or mittimus. If they once lay hold of your papers, memorandums, place of abode, connections and business, they are sure to play them off against you in completion of their villanies, pretending that the woman is a person of credit and honesty, and must be made satisfaction for the injury done her, or they will not only expose you to the world, but bring an action against you for seduction, &c.

Thus,

Thus, by entering the petty brothel for a night, you are saddled with a whore and bastard, otherwise exposed and prosecuted, nay perhaps ruined, from their false allegations against you, of the most heinous and unnatural crimes, shocking to imagination, for at nothing will they stick to trap and defraud you on this side murder.

Many an unwary stranger is taken in as above recited; many a one becomes their prey through insinuations of their being people of a suspected cast, and that if they do not supply them with money from time to time, the Trappers have men to swear against them detestable crimes; such notifications have frightened many out of their money, made others quit their country rather than be barely suspected, knowing that these gentry will stop at nothing to accomplish their wicked and malicious manœuvres, in order to obtain money to supprot them in riot and debauchery.

It is a common method with these Trappers to way-lay gentlemen in the Park, and begin with him after the following manner: "Jack, that is the gentleman that did so and so with me, at such a time." "Is it, says a second, I know him well, and so shall the world too, I'll blow the fellow to the devil." A third comes up, "proposes the gentleman's giving hush money to these rascals, who are capable of committing any wickedness;" this is whispered in his ear; if he refuses, the third condemns him, and the buzz is carried round the Park, a mob collected, and too often the gentleman ill used. If he agrees to  
give



KING'S  
*Frauds of London detected.* Page 97



*Beware fond Youth, O! shun their artful wiles,  
Nor seek for Pleasure in a Harlot's smiles;  
She smiles to wound — she flatters to destroy,  
For Death's the end of each unlawful joy!*



give money to hush the matter up, the Trappers have him secure on all occasions, to extort money from him, which is generally done by letters, and messengers sent upon the occasion, to the continual dread and mortification of the party injured. However, it must be observed in this place, that these Trappers seldom insult any they have not some knowledge of, either in the purlicus of the Garden, Drury-lane, or Hedge-lane; therefore, to escape the like sarcasms, and to avoid the above impositions, it is necessary to warn all my readers from frequenting these petty brothels, and houses filled with the dregs of the common stews, composed of the lower class of Whores, Trappers, Bullies, Setters, Scamps, and Pickpockets.

## W H O R E S.

**W**HORES are so common and so notorious, from the highest in life not to be purchased under an hundred, and the two-penny one to be had on the dunghill, and so many instances of misery brought on mankind by associating therewith, that it is impossible to pourtray one half of the fatal effects produced, and what daily experience brings to view, through the depravity incident to human nature, and the impetuosity of passion in the vicious and abandoned, that not only the inexperienced countryman, but likewise the citizen, with daily *memento's* before his face, falls a victim to the allurements of the insinuating or attractive Whore in every state of life, from the Hackneyed Whore to the Whore of Fashion.

I

By

By the Hackneyed Whore is to be understood those nauseating creatures that ply at the corner of ftreets, alleys, and bye lanes, that by night parade the Strand, and other public places; such as are lost to all shame and decency, palled with heated lust, still, *to feed loathsome life*, are devoted to every flagitious and wicked purpose to obtain bread, are continually forcing men to their disgustful embraces, by every art and trick that wantonness and wickedness can invent.

Compelled by necessity, they prostitute themselves for the smallest consideration, loaded with diseases incident thereto, from a complication of disorders, collected and imbibed by associating with the very reptiles of the earth, become in themselves loathsome and hideous spectacles, rather antidotes than incentives to the joys naturally expectant on the union of the sexes.

A second class are they who have houses of retreat, kept by Bawds for the reception of the Culs, and where the scenes of wickedness are to be acted in privacy and security. First being made stupid by the dregs of adulterated wine and stupifying spirits, they are persuaded to spend the evening in those schools of debauchery, to the ruin of their morals, their health, and fortunes. The Bawd being the mistress, the Whore is only a secondary in the place, and, after the first is discharged, the second supplicates something for her complaisance and condescension. The only difference to be found between these lewd creatures and the former class, is their being better habited  
by

ture women that have them in pay, and accompanied by them and Procureſſes, as a curb to prevent their running away with the cloath they have provided for them, and in which they make figures to allure the youths of diſſipation, by a gaudy diſplay of borrowed plumes to ſet them off to advantage, being, like Jezebel of old, patched, painted, and perfumed, for the purpoſes of deluſion.

As theſe creatures are immediately under the inſpection of the Bawds and Procureſſes, they are obliged to ſubmit to their inſtructions, and to act according to their directions, however ſhocking or diſgraceful to their ſex and humanity; making uſe of the moſt indecent geſticulations and expreſſions, ſwallowing large draughts of the moſt peſtiferous potations, to the injury of both mental and actual faculties, which poisons mind and body, therefore can hardly be removed a degree from the unharboured Whore without habitation.

Their allurements are fraught with deception, and they often ſubſtitute liquor, in the room of argument, to prevail on their prey, till ſuch time they have heated him with paſſion, the better to accompliſh the intended frauds they have in agitation.

Paſſion being productive of paſſion in a greater extreme, they egg the cully on until he becomes a dupe to their artifices, and work him up to their purpoſes, by endearments and other fallacious pretences, till, thoroughly abſorbed in riot, they take the opportunity of profiting by his procraftination and debility, by making the moſt of him in their power, and ſending him

him away as empty in pocket as in knowledge of their schemes and daily atrocities, practised on the unguarded and unthinking part of the creation that falls into their clutches.

By these means the poor deluded countryman becomes a dupe to the artful doxies, some of which are scarce in their teens, loses his money, injures his health, and habituates himself to drinking pernicious draughts of poison contained in their stupifying liquors, which seldom fails of producing the worst and most alarming consequences, exclusive of squandering away fortune, health, and credit, which too often terminates with the loss of life itself.

The bagnio, jelly, and private bawdy-houses claim attention next, the ladies of which, being one step raised above the street walkers just mentioned, and yet dependant on Bawds for their attirements and posts in life, being decorated with watches and trinkets, claim a degree of superiority, for which they keep in pay *flash* men, landlords, and servants to procure them customers, who make a considerable living out of them, by extracting so much per cent. for their introduction, as the furnishers of cloaths do *per suit per day* for their dresses. These Whores are as much distressed, and in as great misery, as either of the former, and more liable to arrests and inconveniencies, and as frequently obliged to submit to the most humiliating means of procuring subsistence.

The mode of obtaining the necessary expences of life is arrogantly assumed, by promising that they have lodgings to pay for, and attendants, and not associating with the creatures



tures of the town, insinuating their superiority and education puts them on a level with ladies of greater fortunes, and more happily situated, being kept mistresses, and therefore expect greater gratuities and more respect than the former, and title and precedence of the latter. If you associate with ladies of this stamp, you must expect to pay accordingly, though it will not exempt you from the accidents acquired by the frequenters of the common stews, few having bills of health about them, to insure their customers from disasters.

The next class are the Whores of Fashion, the refuse and cast off mistresses of men of quality, left with a few cloaths and some money, set up for grandeur and fortunes, and thereby intrap the unsuspecting and inconsiderate, who are careless of the money squandered upon them, if they have the credit of being considered as persons able of administering to the foibles and follies of a fine woman, though the refuse of a nobleman. These Ladies of Pleasure, as they are stiled by the *Beau Monde*, reserve themselves for only such as are capable, and have fortunes sufficient, to pay for the favours they bestow; followed by officers they become toasts, and are thereby sought after by the merchants and tradesmen in affluence, to shew their taste and breeding, in selecting women of the *Bon Ton* for their leisure moments, and hours of indulgence.

To speak of these ladies as they deserve, I must confess they are the most eligible of all Whores to have cognizance of; as amongst thieves so amongst them, the name of honour

is to be found, and therefore a dependance is placed in their asseverations, though, in the end, you pay dearly for their condescensions and favours.

There are other degrees of Whores in elevation, but, as they are not particularly under the caution this book takes the liberty to moralize on, I shall leave them to prey on their keepers in high life, content with giving a description of those who more immediately may be said to concern the readers, and by avoiding the arts and insinuations of the Syrens here set forth, eschew the evils they generally entail on them and posterity.

### W A Y - L A Y E R S.

**T**HESE Way-layers, or Kid-layers, have at different times, for many years back, raised many and valuable contributions on the public, notwithstanding Sir John Fielding's people have of late kept a good look out after them, and detected and brought to justice some of the most atrocious, yet there are, at this time, hundreds in the metropolis that ply at night in the streets, and in the day time at the entrance of inns, where waggons or machines put up, or in the yard. Three of these gentry go together, one of which, having a more gentleman like appearance, if he meets a porter, or servant, with a parcel of any kind, seems in much distress to send a letter away immediately, offers half a crown to any body that will carry it; the porter, or servant, hearing a person across the way say, "Master, how far  
" is

“ is it? I'll carry it.” Willing to be beforehand with him, offer their service; but what is to become of their baggage? why the gentleman will stay by it till their return, which will not take them ten minutes. The load is put down, the letter given, away goes the porter or servant one way, the Way-layers another with the booty; this mode has been practiced for many years with success.

Another method is pursued similar to the former, by the pretended gentleman's waiting near the inn where the porter is carrying his load, a knowledge of which is sometimes easily obtained by the direction on the same, or one of the Layers enquires; a third of these, habited as a book-keeper, or porter of the inn, stands in the gateway; the supposed gentleman wants a letter carried in great haste, asks the person he intends to rob, how far he is going? who replies, only over the way with that parcel, will be back in a minute, and carry it for him; the other pretends great haste, the porter, on entering the inn gate, is accosted by the sham book-keeper with, “for what place is that parcel?” such a place, he replies, “put it down, and I'll take care of it.” This generally succeeds; away returns the porter to my gentleman, who gives him a letter and shilling for the other end of the town, while they secure their booty in this.

Countrymen and errand-boys to shops are the best customers the Way-layers have; the former they work by many devices, till they have robbed him, either by treating him at the public house, enticing him to play at some game,

game, carrying his burthen for him, and the like, till opportunity and stratagem suits for giving him the slip, which is done by another's stopping him in the street, and pretending to know either him, the place he came from, or the inhabitants, entertaining him with a story of a cock and a bull, till his comrades have secured the countryman's effects, and absconded therewith. Sometimes they will lead the poor fellow up one street and down another, pretending to know the place of his destination, till he is quite tired out, upon which one of them offers to ease him; which accepted, while he and the other are in discourse, the *easer* unperceived slips down some bye lane, or alley, or into some house with the countryman's property, leaving him to bewail his credulity, and to curse the perpetrators of his misfortune. If he looks back, and does not see the Layer with the parcel, and begins to suspect, on enquiry what is become of him, is told he is gone the other way, being more free of passengers; and, when they come near the place, the Layer shews him the house or inn where he is to find his comrade and the parcel, telling him he will wait on the other side of the street till his return; the countryman goes his way in search of them, and the Layer to share with his associates their ill got gains.

Errand-boys are frequently robbed by discovering to the Way-layer the commodities they are carrying to Mr. Such-a-one's, their master's name, business, and residence; which obtained, away goes the Layer to inform his mates.



mates of the prize they have in view, and to give them the necessary intelligence and instructions, in order to obtain the same. If the boy enquires his way, he is directed by one of them, and, within a few yards of the house, is met by another, who asks him if he has not brought him such and such things from his master, tells him his name, takes the parcel from him, and sends him back for other articles, which he is ordered to return with immediately, as a customer is waiting for them; the unsuspecting boy returns home, gets the fresh order, and brings to the house where he should have left the first, when, too late, he is made sensible of his error in trusting to strangers in the streets, however feasible their story of being the person he was directed to may appear.

The above description of Way-layers will be, I hope, a sufficient caution to countrymen and errand-boys to avoid them, without a further charge, by always seeing goods intended for the country properly booked at the inns they are to go from; by carrying all parcels to the houses directed, and delivering them therein; not suffering any persons they have no knowledge of to entice or lure them, by the old bait of paying them for carrying letters, and taking care of their parcels in the mean time, or suffering any body to carry their burthens for them; all which, if avoided, will secure their or their master's property and effects from falling a prey to the Way-layers, who are daily sculking about in search of whom they may devour, to the great injury and misfortune

of

of all who are so unhappy as to fall into their hands.

## WAGGON-HUNTERS.

THESE are the next defaulters I shall set up to the reader's view, composed of very different personages, namely, old Bawds or Procuressees, Scamps, or Robbers on the Highway. With respect to the first of these, their occupation is, as I have more particularly observed under their respective heads, to lure and entice country maidens, on their arrival in London, to their houses of ill fame, under the pretence of providing for them, in order to ruin and sacrifice them to the lust and lasciviousness of old debilitated leachers, and emaciated beaux and maccaronies.

It is for this purpose that these irreverend old caterers are attendants on the waggons and machines arrival in town, in order to pick up a tender country pullet for his lordship's supper, and which they effect in the following manner: Having taken their seat at a convenient part of the inn, adjacent to the place the machine stops at, no sooner is the country maid out of it, than she is saluted, sometimes by name, (which the old Bawd has got from the waggoner or driver, whom she keeps in pay for intelligence of his passengers) and asked how she does? and how her parents are? and other questions about the country. Whether she is in want of a place? and what sort of a place? She wanting a country servant, and, as she can see honesty in her face, should be glad to

to hire such a one. These, and other like artful insinuations, sometimes prevail with the maid to follow her home, in hopes of being handsomely provided for, and hugs herself with her good fortune the first day of her arrival in London. But, alas! a second day presents her with nothing but shame and ruin.

Decoyed into the Syren's den, she is soon made sensible of the service she is to do her employer, by prostituting her uncontaminated soul and body, to age, disease, or ugliness; if she refuses, force is added to persuasion and threats, till completion of her undoing is accomplished.

When once a woman has lost her virtue, either through force or inclination, she seldom weighs the matter judiciously, or withdraws herself from vice, but rather gives way to it; and what at first she did reluctantly, becoming habitual to her, she gives herself up for lost, and enters every time into the scene of wickedness with less regret than the former, till she becomes as abandoned in principles and morals, as she is hackneyed and accustomed to lewdness of thought and prostitution of body. These old Bawds, under the description of Waggon-Hunters, are tutors of the ignorant and inexperienced they have inveigled into their houses, under specious pretences of making their fortunes, after they have got them thoroughly *broke in*; in making the most of themselves and men recommended to their company, in practising every art of coquetry or lewdness as best hits their Cully's liking, which they work up with surprizing success and assiduity.

It

## 108 WAGGON-HUNTERS.

It is necessary to caution the country maid from adhering to the Waggon-Hunter's fallacious promises of providing or getting her a service, as fatal consequences are the result thereof, to the ruin of hundreds yearly. The maiden cannot be too cautious in whom she places confidence on her arrival in London, or with whom she makes acquaintance, or forms connexions; let her therefore be wary and circumspect therein; let her advise with her friends or relations, if she has any, about the honest pursuit she is to make through life with reputation and credit; let her avoid public places of diversions, too much frequented by the giddy and unthinking, without a safeguard to protect her from the Beldam hunters of innocence and simplicity. In short, let her be careful of herself, and not indulge too much in search of romantic pleasures, and keeping late hours, too frequently the bane of her sex.

The other species of Waggon-hunters are errant thieves, that ply about town in the dusk of the evening, to rob the waggons on their entrance therein, which is done by association; some of their gang, dressing as countrymen, overtake the waggoner on the road, a few miles from town, desire to have a lift, pretending ignorance, and a fear of being pressed, at the same time offering to pay for the ride. The waggoner, not suspecting their drift, consents thereto; up they get to rummage and loosen such goods as may be worth stealing, and can be easily conveyed away without detection. Another of them walks with the waggoner, and tells him stories of one thing or another, to divert



divert his attention from the care of his trust, while he on the inside is throwing out the goods to their accomplices, even in the very streets, while people are walking to and fro, without molestation. Between Hyde-park turnpike and the White-horse Cellar, Piccadilly, from Islington to St. John's-street, near Smithfield, and from Bethnal-green to Whitechapel, these nefarious practices are daily carried on by a set of rogues, in defiance of law, and to the wrong and injury of the community in general.

These gentry are equally as adroit in cutting off portmanteaus, trunks, and boxes from behind chaise, &c.\* if not thoroughly watched, which it is the duty of every driver to take care of, by attending to the vehicle under his charge and giving a good look out, which would be the means of frustrating the attempts of these villains, and prevent the general complaints made against drivers, of their carelessness and want of honesty, in not endeavouring to detect and bring to justice the notorious robbers of the public, with whom, too often, it is suspected, and to be feared, they are concerned in their wicked and injurious proceedings.

\* A very judicious scheme was laid, a short time ago, to detect these gentry, particularly those accustomed to robbing Postchaises, by cutting off the portmanteaus from behind, and other such like proceedings. Mr. Clark, and some other of Sir John Fielding's men, for the purpose of detection, hired a chaise, behind it was fastened a trunk, with which they drove for town; and, according to their expectations, the robbers attempted and effected their purposes, but being detected in the commission thereof, were secured, and examined by the Justices of Police, in Bow street; but unfortunately for the present escaped commitment, on account of the *trap* being laid for the intent of detection.

## JEW DEFAULTERS.

**T**HERE are many other atrocities committed in this great city besides those already mentioned, by such as Sabbath-breakers, False Witnesses, Perjurers, and others of the same class, who having lost all sense of religion (or rather having never paid any attention thereto) begin their career of wickedness, first by absenting themselves from public worship on a Sunday, and, in the next place, associating with the abandoned and irreligious, till, in process of time, they take up some one or other of the herein before recited callings, being of an idle lazy disposition, to get a livelihood, rather than to labour honestly to get their bread as good Christians and members of the community ought to do. A number of instances might be brought of the fatal consequences attendant on the Sabbath-breaker, who generally finishes his days at the gallows, as set forth in almost every dying speech and confession of the malefactors executed at Tyburn.

The many notorious depredations and outrages committed by Jews, are very alarming in a Christian country such as Great Britain is, remarkable for laws and liberty; and it is to be lamented that no effectual means can be found to stop the growing evil, which, of late years, has overspread the country. The many horrid and shocking murders and burglaries they have committed, and for which some have justly suffered, though others have escaped, call for the interference of the legislative power,

## JEW DEFAULTERS. III

er, and the maturest wisdom, in adjusting a code of laws particularly to affect this numerous race of unbelievers, who look upon it as a virtue to destroy, cheat, and gull the christian world. Through the lenity of our laws, and the impartiality of our judgments, the Israelites elude the justice their notorious crimes demand, by procuring false witnesses to vouch for them on trial, and perjuring themselves upon trivial occasions, to get the better of the battle when engaged with a Christian.

Pettyfogging Attornies are to be found, capable of undertaking any work, though ever so dirty, and wresting truth a thousand ways, in order to make it suit with the bed of torture, thereby perverting the law from it's real meaning, and giving it the face of falsehood in contradiction to itself, being founded on equity, and composed of justice and truth; to such as these the Jew resorts; to men whose consciences are seared, who would, for the sake of lucre, ruin or betray their nearest and dearest relation or friend, without remorse; nay, for the sake of gain, would forswear the religion they were educated in, and turn Jew, Turk, or Infidel.

These are the only men to be found for them, who can contrive forms for their preservation beyond the limits of the law, and regardless of honour, truth, and virtue, which to them are only known by name, that have no situation in the breast, or dealings in the heart. That such caitiffs as these exist is notorious; that Jews make use of them is certain; witness the number of bankrupts amongst the tribes; the num-

ber of certificates, obtained by pretending creditors on their affirmations, who were never owed a farthing, purposely calculated to defeat the honest creditor of his just demands, and give the Jew bankrupt his liberty to play the same game over and over again. Therefore, if a law of restriction was laid upon them in their dealings, or a severe penalty on the tribe, besides exemplary punishment on the culprit on detection, according to the heinousness of the offence, it would not only, in some measure, put a stop to their nefarious and diabolical proceedings, but likewise be the means of saving the lives of many of his Majesty's subjects, which are wantonly and wickedly, without mercy or humanity, plundered and destroyed by these pests of society; as in this case the whole would suffer by the commitment of illicit practices against the laws of the land, the greater number would become circumspect in their dealings, and that of their brethren, for fear of the fine and punishment in force against them. Bulls and Bears would scarcely be found in the Alley, or want of faith and charity on the Exchange. Besides the good effect this might produce in their morals and manners, it would become of great utility to the state in general, as it might be applied towards discharging the national debt, which they, from time to time, have considerably helped to increase, by hoarding up their vast riches, and preying on the necessities of the prodigal spendthrift, or uninstructed youth of dissipation, by lending out money at fifty per Cent. to them during their non-age.

The



The various schemes and stratagems made use of by Jews, to cheat and over-reach the unsuspecting Christian, are so many, and so contrasted, that it would take up a large volume to pourtray them, therefore suffice it, that of all mankind Jews are the most to be avoided, being capable of committing any crime in the world, merely to enrich themselves, and to deceive you. There is scarcely a day passes without complaints being lodged against them, either for murder, robbery, extortion, receiving of stolen goods, and a long train of &c.'s to open the eyes of the public, and put them on their guard against these locusts, that are come hither to eat up the honey of our land, and starve our children, while they pamper themselves, and live on the fatness thereof. Doctor Johnson says, *Taxation is no tyranny*—Let them be taxed, and severely too, they can afford it, they have money in plenty, ease them of some part of the burthen they groan under, and therewith lighten the burthen of taxes imposed upon ourselves. Retaliation is commendable in this case, and ought forthwith to be put in practice against them, under the sanction of the law to be made and provided, “For  
 “effectually putting a stop to the many atroc-  
 “ities, mal-practices, and deceptions daily  
 “committed by Jews on Christians, and to  
 “immerse them with fines and punishments,  
 “such as the nature of their offence may re-  
 “quire; the fines to be appropriated in dis-  
 “charge of the national debt, &c. &c.” By  
 this means, if we cannot make them honest,  
 still we shall make them serviceable, which will

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answer the present exigency of affairs in England every bit as well, nay better; for to make them honest is morally impossible, but to make their money serviceable to us is beyond a doubt, therefore I am for the *lex talionis* being put in force without further delay, and the Israelite assisting in the support of the state, in a more ample manner than heretofore; which will be only returning a tenth of his ill gotten pelf, to the disgrace of his generation and the exultation of millions.

From what I have said relative to Jews, the countryman will naturally be warned against them, and their insinuating wiles, calculated to cheat and take in every body in their power, as well as the other defaulters herein before set forth. Likewise, I am persuaded, that the shop-keeper and tradesman will find their account in the perusal of this book; and, if they follow the cautions inserted against frauds and cheats, at the year's end they will have the pleasure to find their shops unrifled, and their goods secure. I am credibly informed, by an haberdasher in the city, that, on a calculation for several years past, he has not been robbed of less than one hundred and fifty pounds yearly, by those *retail customers* who make a trade of bilking every shop they enter into, if opportunity serves.

To conclude, it is my hearty and sincere wish, that the pains and trouble I have taken to investigate and find out the different frauds committed in and about London, and the mode of detection, together with the cautions in general given to the free hearted and unsuspecting countryman,

## JEW DEFAULTERS. 115

countryman, above deceit himself, nor fearing it in others, may have the desired effect; which is, to prevent and detect cheats and robbers from preying upon the unwary, and to guard against the chicaneries and deceptions of the artful and designing thief, who intends, by specious and hypocritical asseverations, to worm himself into the good opinion of his friend or patron, the better to deceive him. That these incorrigible and designing villains are to be avoided and procrastinated, I have herein attempted to demonstrate and prove, not only by laying down rules to escape, but also their different methods made use of to complete their illegalities, which, if properly attended to, I make no doubt, but will repay the reader for the time he spends in giving it perusal. Should these sheets fall into the hands of the vicious or abandoned herein described, it is to be hoped the mirror will strike him so forcibly, as to desist from all future maledictions and atrocities, and by leaving off his nefarious proceedings, be once more received into the community of the honest and deserving part of the world, with rejoicing as for the lost sheep found and restored to the fold of its owner, is the ardent prayer and wish of the Author.

F I N I S.

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destruction, which, I am persuaded, I  
shall not detain, but will save the reader for  
the time he spends in glancing through. Should  
these truths fall into the hands of the vicious  
or abandoned being described, it is to be hoped  
the mirror will shew him so forcibly, as to de-  
liver him from all future wickedness and excesses,  
and by leaving only a nervous prolegomena  
be ever more received into the community for  
the benefit and delivering out of the world  
with respect to the fold of his sheep found and  
referred to the fold of his owner, is the ardent  
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